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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 874)

Name of Candidate	NAVNEET MANN		(36473)
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG.	Registration Number	36473
Center	ORN	Date	27/9/17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Answer the following questions in not more than 200 words each:

1. The greatness of the Mughal achievement in the political unification of India was matched by the splendour and beauty of the work of architects, poets, historians, painters and musicians who flourished in the period. Comment.

भारत के राजनीतिक एकीकरण में मुगलकालीन उपलब्धियों की महानता वस्तुतः वास्तुकारों, कवियों, इतिहासकारों, चित्रकारों एवं संगीतकारों के कार्यों की भव्यता एवं सुंदरता से अभिव्यक्त होती है , जो उस काल में फले-फूले। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The Mughal Period can be referred to as one of the high points of Indian history not only in the political ~~sense~~ sense but also in the cultural sense.

The Mughal rulers, started from Babur to Humayun to Akbar and further, politically unified the sub-continent and established a "kingdom" in the real sense.

But the greatness of the Mughals was equally replicated in the architectural and cultural sphere.

→ ARCHITECTURE : The Mughal Rule

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marked the "Climax age" for the Indo-Islamic architecture. All the prominent features like use of pietra-dura, Charbagh style, jaali work, minars and archs, etc. are well represented in the structures of this period like the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Taj Mahal, Buland Darwaza, etc.

→ POETRY: Poetry received a filip with the advent of the Mughal rule. The Mughal rulers themselves were talented poets like Akbar, Jahangir. Poetic works of those times used both Persian and Indian languages and later Urdu.

→ HISTORIANS: Historical accounts too flourished during this time. Accounts of Abul Fazl (Ain-e-Akbari) and Md. Lahori (during Shah Jahan's reign)

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are well known.

→ PAINTING: The miniature-style of painting reached its highest point. Rulers combined both Indian elements with Persian elements - calligraphy, foreshortening, etc. Akbar established royal karkhanas and Jahangir himself was a painter.

→ MUSIC: Music especially Hindustani Music flourished during this time. The Dhrupada school under Tan Sen, Khayal school, Tappa school under Md. Shah "Rangeela" are some of the significant contributions.

Therefore, the Mughal Rule marked an all-round development in all spheres of polity, culture, art.

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2. Traditionally, India had developed wide-ranging water harvesting techniques in keeping with the local ecological conditions and their water needs. Substantiate with examples.
पारंपरिक रुप से भारत ने स्थानीय पारिस्थितिक दशाओं एवं अपनी स्थानिक जल आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार विविध प्रकार की जल संचयन (वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग) तकनीकों का विकास किया था। उदाहरण सहित पुष्ट कीजिए।

India since the earliest times was ~~not~~ not only a geographically large, extensive landscape but also housed a potentially large population (present more than 16% of the world population). However, such an extensive region comprises of only 4% of the water sources of the world.

Water shortage and scarcity issues have been faced by the resident of the subcontinent since the Ancient times. Water shortages generally have arisen due to less than needed rainfall and also due to unequal distribution of rainfall.

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In this respect, water harvesting techniques have been developed by Indians since the ancient times.

→ The earliest example can be the Great Bath ~~of~~ the Harappan civilisation.

→ Remains of tanks found dating to the Mauryan Age suggest water harvesting techniques being prevalent during that time. Seasonal nature of rainfall and the need of water to meet agricultural needs necessitated construction of tank-like structures.

→ Similar practices of tank building was continued by the Guptas.

→ Meanwhile, in the hilly regions (of Kashmir, etc) in order to prevent the water from ~~[illegible]~~ running-off

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'kuls', 'guls' were formed.

→ In the desert areas, 'johads' and 'khadins' are prominent.

→ The need for daily usage, agricultural practices and even for recreation led to the Medieval Rulers like the Sultanate rulers to construct Baolis (like the Agrasen Ki Baoli and those in Hauz Khas).

→ Mughal Rulers also introduced water element in their structures (like in Taj Mahal).

→ Due to seasonal nature of rivers, Bamboo drip irrigation was prevalent.

→ Moreover, the Dravidian style temples too had water tanks within their premises.

Thus, the need of water has been recognised since the earliest times in India and arrangements for it had been made.

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3. Imperial rivalries of 18th Century Europe were played out in India as well. Comment in the context of the Carnatic Wars.
18वीं सदी के यूरोप की साम्राज्यिक प्रतिद्वंद्विताएं भारत में भी देखी गईं। कर्नाटक युद्धों के संदर्भ में टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The 18th century marked imperialist rivalries between two European leaders - Britain and France and the events that followed had ramifications in India as well.

Major events of the 18th century - Austrian War of Succession, the American War of Independence and the Seven Years War - were all born out of the imperialist rivalries between Britain and France.

India, too had become an active ground of fighting between imperialist powers during this time. All major

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European powers - British, France, Spanish, Dutch - wanted a "piece" out of the "Indian cake".

In this context, the Carnatic wars are worth mention. All the 3 Carnatic wars - 1946 to 1948, 1949 to 1954, 1957 to 1963 - were all due to rivalries between Britain and France.

The 1st Carnatic war was due to the Austrian war of Succession. However, the war turned out to be futile and inconclusive for both.

The 2nd Carnatic war was due to the issue of disputed successions to the thrones of Hyderabad

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and the Carnatic. After the war, Britain established influence over carnatic and France over Hyderabad.

the 3rd Carnatic war emerged out of the Seven Years War. France lost the Battle of wandiwash and the entire 7 Years war and finally by the Treaty of Paris also lost their claim over India.

Thus, the imperialist rivalries of the 18th century played out in India as well and has consequential outcomes for the Indian subcontinent.

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4. The Lucknow session of 1916 was a watershed event during the freedom struggle of India due to various reasons. Elucidate.
भारत के स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष के दौरान 1916 का लखनऊ सत्र विभिन्न कारणों से एक ऐतिहासिक घटना थी। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

The Lucknow session of the Congress in 1916 is considered as one of the momentous events of the Indian freedom struggle.

Prior to the 1916 Session, the Indian freedom struggle had entered into a state of despondency especially after the Surat Split of 1907. Tilak and Annie Beasant partially revived during their Home Rule Movements which created the ideal ground for the 1916 session.

The Lucknow Session (1916) was a watershed moment due to

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to multiple reasons:

- the session witnessed the Lucknow Pact between the Congress and the Muslim League.
- The Extremists re-joined the Congress.
- The Session and its outcomes brought the British to the backfoot, leading to the Montagu Speech and finally the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.
- The session was also significant as it witnessed the attendence of Mahatma Gandhi. It was this session in which Gandhi was requested to lead the Champaran Movement.

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- The Congress split and the eventual re-unification turned out to be significant lesson for the later leaders to maintain unity which was evident during the time of the formation of the Swaraj Party (1923).

Therefore, the Lucknow Session of 1916 was truly a significant event in the Indian freedom struggle.

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5. Reforms initiated by the Justice Party became a model for social affirmative action in the country. Comment.
जस्टिस पार्टी द्वारा आरंभ किए गए सुधार देश में सकारात्मक सामाजिक कार्यवाही हेतु एक आदर्श बन गए थे। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

India historically has been the land of social inequalities arising out the caste system. In this, the Justice party made contributions to reverse the trend.

The Justice Party with contributions of leaders like E. Ramaswami Naicker (Periyar) was established for the cause of the Depressed Sections. It has its roots during the Self-Respect Movement.

During the freedom struggle, the Justice Party and leaders like

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Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had reached a consensus the Depressed classes could not join the mainstream of the society on their own. Thus, special efforts in the form of affirmative action had to be made in their favour.

Justice Party soon emerged as a model for social affirmative action for years to come due to the reforms it advocated.

- It denounced the practice of untouchability.
- It advocated temple entry for the untouchables.
- The Party advocated for reservation of seats in the legislature for the

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depressed sections so that their 'political voice' could be heard.

— they also advocated affirmative action / positive discrimination for the Depressed sections in matters of social welfare and education, employment.

thus, the Justice Party programme and the associated reforms truly epitomised the model for affirmative action which eventually nudged the national leaders to provide the same.

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6. War in the Korean Peninsula proved to be disastrous for Korea, a missed opportunity for the United States and a defining moment for China. Examine.

कोरियाई प्रायद्वीप में हुआ युद्ध कोरिया के लिए विनाशकारी, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के लिए एक खोया हुआ अवसर तथा चीन के लिए एक निर्णायक क्षण सिद्ध हुआ। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Korean Crisis (1950-51) is considered as one of the worst legacies of the Cold War, the ramifications of which are even evident today.

The Korean Peninsula was occupied by Japan in 1910. After the end of the 2nd world war, the Korean Peninsula was partitioned into North and South, each to be respectively managed by USSR and USA briefly. However the temporary state of affairs soon became permanent.

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The Korean Crisis which emerged out of in 1950 still has not ended as a peace agreement has still not been signed.

The war was disastrous for Korea as the Peninsula continues to remain divided. The frustrations of the division are being felt today in the form of nuclear attacks by DPRK (North Korea).

The Korean war was a missedopportunity for USA. USA was partiallysuccesful in protecting South Korea from falling in the "trap of communism". However, the war is considered as a failure of for USA's Containment Policy.

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However, the Korean war turned out to be a defining moment for China. A recently independent country which had been internationally isolated (due to its adoption of communism) soon became the hub of international politics. The crucial role of China in the Korean crisis is intressed even today.

Therefore, the Korean war was not simply a war at a tiny peninsula but a war had and still has significant consequences for all the world powers.

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7. The Munich Pact brought neither peace nor stability in relations between European countries, rather it turned out to be an act of appeasement that made war inevitable. Comment.

म्यूनिख समझौते ने यूरोपीय देशों के बीच संबंधों में न तो शांति उत्पन्न की और न ही स्थिरता, अपितु यह तुष्टीकरण की एक ऐसी कार्यवाही सिद्ध हुआ जिसने युद्ध को अपरिहार्य बना दिया। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The Munich Pact signed between the European Powers of Britain and France with the then Nazi Germany is considered as the ultimate act of appeasement which made the 2nd world war inevitable.

The humiliation on the defeat of the 1st world war and then the Versailles Treaty (1919) finally brought Adolf Hitler to power in Germany. He soon established his 'Nazi State' and started his expansionism and militarisation in complete violation of the Versailles Treaty.

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However, instead of criticising Hitler, Britain and France as important leaders of the League of Nations adopted a wait and watch approach and did nothing to balance the aggressor. This is called the Policy of Appeasement.

The ultimate manifestation of this appeasement was the Munich Pact under which Hitler was allowed to occupy Sudetenland provided he leaves Poland untouched.

Probably, Britain and France saw the Communist Russia as

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a bigger threat than the Nazi Germany and thus, adopted appeasement.

However, the Munich Pact only further emboldened Hitler to further go with expansion. The Pact was followed by Hitler occupying Poland, reunifying with Austria which ultimately marked the advent of the 2nd world war.

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8. Explain how Gandhi's non-violent philosophy influenced Martin Luther King Jr.'s methods. Also discuss the contributions and accomplishments of King to ensure civil rights for all people regardless of race in America.

व्याख्या कीजिए कि किस प्रकार से गांधीजी के अहिंसावादी दर्शन ने मार्टिन लूथर किंग जूनियर के तरीकों को प्रभावित किया। साथ ही अमेरिका में नस्लीय भेदभाव के बिना सभी लोगों के लिए नागरिक अधिकार सुनिश्चित करने में मार्टिन लूथर किंग के योगदानों एवं उपलब्धियों की भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Martin Luther King Jr. once said "Jesus gave us the message and Gandhi gave us the method".

Mahatma Gandhi and practice of non-violence has found supporters not only in India but across the globe. World leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela have been influenced by the Gandhian philosophy.

Gandhi's idea of satyagraha was based on the edifice of truth

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and non-violence. According to Gandhi, "an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind".

Martin Luther King Jr. is considered as the one of the most prominent advocate of Black Rights. The issue of racism and the associated issues of the Black there had become increasingly vitralic during the 1960s. Even though USA as a democracy was established in 1787 yet Blacks were still not treated as equal.

In this, Martin Luther King played an important role in the Black Rights movement. He was influenced by the Gandhian principles of non-violence and

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Satyagraha. The influence of Gandhian non-violent philosophy is evident in King's literary works and speeches. The silent protests and marches led by him also bear influence of Gandhism.

Years of ardent struggles on the part of King finally nudged the USA government to extend the basic set of rights to the Black these.

It is due to King and his contributions that the Blacks today enjoy the basic set of fundamental rights of equality, freedom, voting, etc.

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9. Apart from the linguistic reorganisation of states, the three language formula was an important part of government policy to address the language question in India. Discuss.

राज्यों के भाषाई पुनर्गठन के अतिरिक्त, त्रि-भाषा सूत्र भारत में भाषा की समस्या का समाधान करने की सरकार की नीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग था। चर्चा कीजिए।

Since the time of the Indian freedom struggle, the question of language had always been an emotive issue.

The language question soon surfaced just after Independence in the form of the linguistic reorganisation of the states and the three language formula.

Earlier the leaders were averse to address the language question. The Partition and the associated communal tensions were the reasons behind this.

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So, initially the linguistic reorganisation of the state was rejected (by the Dhar commission and the JVP committee). It was only after the death of P. Sriramalu which forced the government to carve out Andhra Pradesh that the Fazl Ali Commission recommended the linguistic reorganisation of states.

In this, the 3 language formula is also of worth mention. Since Independence the issue of the country's ~~official~~ national language had been much vexed. While Northern leaders favoured Hindi, leaders in the south favoured English.

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Added to this was the issue of the languages of the minorities. In adoption of either English or Hindi as the national/official language, the linguistic minorities were to be at the losing end.

The 3 language issue was finally resolved. By the Official language Act (1962), both Hindi and English were adopted as the official languages but none as national language.

Moreover, on the recommendation of the Fazl Ali commission, the Constitution was amended to include Art 350A (which provides linguistic minorities to be taught in their mother tongue in primary school) and Art 350B (Officer of linguistic minorities to protect rights of the linguistic minorities.

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10. Enumerate the measures for the welfare of Unorganised Workers in India. In the context of problems being faced by 'domestic helps', discuss the need for additional measures to safeguard their interests.

भारत में असंगठित कामगारों के कल्याण हेतु किए गए उपायों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। 'घरेलू सहायकों' द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं के संदर्भ में, उनके हितों की रक्षा करने हेतु अतिरिक्त उपायों की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

About 92% of the workforce of India comprises of the unorganised workers.

welfare measures in favour of the unorganised sector have been a challenge. This is because the workers are not accounted for in the domain of formal labour. They are not within fold of the social security benefits available to the formal sector workers.

Yet, the government has over the time extended multiple measures in favour of the unorganised workers:

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→ The government has recently proposed a draft social welfare code by the means of which social security would now be extended to even the unorganised workers.

→ The Employee Compensation Act, 1923 has been amended to provide greater protection against accidents, mishaps.

→ The government also provides skill augmentation programmes (like the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana) so that unorganised workers can turn into formal-sector workers.

→ Access to Basic amenities of food, shelter, etc. through PDS, PM Awass Yojana, etc.

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In this context, the cause of the "domestic helps" too should be brought into notice.

There is a need to extend additional reforms like compulsary registration, employers providing social security benefits, to the 'domestic helps', etc.

The need is due to the ~~peco~~ peculiar problems that they face:

→ lack of security of job and tenure

→ poorly paid

→ a job of low dignity which also opens door for greater exploitation

→ lack of access to any social security benefits.

→ no fixed working hours and no fixed leave.

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11. The manner in which the mentally ill have been treated in India suggests that policy measures alone may not be sufficient to address the challenges faced by them. Discuss.

भारत में मानसिक रुप से रोग ग्रस्त व्यक्तियों के साथ जिस प्रकार का व्यवहार किया जाता रहा है उससे यह सिद्ध होता है कि मात्र नीतिगत उपाय ही उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

The mentally ill not only form one of the most miniscule sections of the Indian society but also one of the most ignored sections of the society.

In the recent past, many policy measures have been extended in favour of the mentally ill persons. For instance, the Mental Health Care Act, ~~decriminilis~~ decriminalisation of Suicide, opening of wards for the mentally ill in hospitals, professionalisation of the psychiatric profession and the National Health Policy (2017).

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However, the mentally ill face certain unique challenges due to which policy measures alone do not work. These challenges are:

→ the social stigma associated with the mentally challenged

→ issues of depression and mental illness are taken seriously and discussed and are often ignored.

→ perpetual economic dependency of the mentally challenged.

→ lack of "political voice"

→ poor state of hospitals for the mentally challenged.

→ lack of adequate number of professionally trained psychiatrists

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ lack of adequate personal care

→ the drug menace too opens door for mental illnesses.

Thus, in order to bring a positive, substantive change in the lives of the mentally challenged additionally measures are required -

- enhancing social awareness and sensitivity
- tackling the drug menace
- improving condition of mental health care centres, etc.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. Highlight the characteristics of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and discuss the challenges faced by them. Also enumerate the measures taken by the government to address these challenges.

विशिष्ट रुप से सुभेद्य जनजातीय समूहों (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups: PVTGs) की विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालिए एवं उनकेद्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही सरकार द्वारा इन चुनौतियों का समाधान करने हेतु किए गए उपायों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

The PVTGs are different ~~fro~~ from the other tribal groups in a number of different ways.

The PVTGs are :

- the most isolated of the tribals
- they have their own way of living with no absolute contact with the outside world
- all their members continue to reside the territory they historically ~~sett~~ settled on
- they are particularly vulnerable as they are highly economically backward

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- lack of any access to formal education and jobs further intensifies their vulnerability.

In this context they face multiple challenges:

→ Economic challenges:

- lack of any viable economic activity
- industrial activities (mining) destroy their livelihoods
- perpetual state of poverty
- lack of skills

→ Socio-cultural challenges:

- not in touch with mainstream society
- still follow age-old cultural practices

→ Political challenges:

- lack of political representation at any level - local, state, national

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In order to address these measures, the government has undertaken the following measures:

(1) first proper census on the number and strength of the PVTGs

(2) enhancing connectivity to these areas

(3) allowing the PVTGs to develop and govern according to their "tribal genius"

(4) jobs (through NREGA) and skill training for those members of PVTGs who want to enter into the mainstream.

The PVTGs due to being highly isolated should not be overly administered and Pt. Nehru "Tribal Panchsheel Policy" should be adopted.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. While suburbanisation is a common phenomenon in most urbanising countries, it is occurring at a relatively early stage of India's urban development. Enumerating the reasons behind this development, highlight the challenges it is creating for Indian cities.

यद्यपि उपशहरीकरण अधिकांश शहरीकृत हो रहे देशों में एक सामान्य परिघटना है, किन्तु भारत के शहरी विकास के संदर्भ में यह अपेक्षाकृत प्रारंभिक चरण पर में हो रही है। इस विकास के अंतर्निहित कारणों को सूचीबद्ध करते हुए भारतीय शहरों के लिए इसके द्वारा उत्पन्न की जा रही चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

While urbanisation ~~is~~ considered as the phenomenona of increasingly greater population residing in urban areas, sub-urbanisation is the phenomenona of the areas adjoining urban centres to acquire urban characteristics yet are still ~~have~~ to reach the goal of urbanisation.

The proliferation of sub-urban areas is a common feature across urbanised countries. However, it is peculiar that suburbs have increasingly grown in numbers and size

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in India which still has ~~one~~ not fully urbanised. The emergence of hubs like Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad around Delhi serves a case in point.

The reasons which can be attributed to the emergence of suburbs include:

→ lack of adequate space in urban centres due to excessive immigration

→ development of industries on city margins

→ shortage of urban centres and their unequal distribution

→ economic linkages between urban centres and adjoining areas

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However, the process of suburbanisation is beset by certain challenges:

→ lack of uniform administrative and governance policies in main urban centres and suburbs

→ environmental hazards overflowing out of the urban centres to the suburbs

→ loss of potential agricultural land in adjoining areas

→ destruction of traditional villages in the adjoining areas

→ loss of cultural heritage

→ proliferation of slums

Therefore, there is a need of a more planned approach towards urbanisation.

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14. Various geographical and anthropogenic factors have rendered Brahmaputra Valley susceptible to recurrent floods. Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.

विविध भौगोलिक एवं मानव जनित कारकों ने ब्रह्मपुत्र घाटी को बारम्बार बाढ़ों हेतु अति संवेदनशील बना दिया है। इसके कारणों की चर्चा कीजिए तथा शमन के उचित उपाय सुझाइए।

Brahmaputra River is one of the most flood prone rivers in India.

Geographical Causes

→ Heavy Rainfall due to to south west Monsoon

→ steep slopes of the Himalayas

→ Meandering path of the Brahmaputra River

→ changing course of the river

→ excessive accumulation of sediments in the lower valley with no 'filtering-off' mechanism

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Anthropogenic factors

→ deforestation

→ soil erosion

→ Building of dams and reservoirs

→ construction of roads, industries without due consideration to its environmental impacts

→ practice of jhum cultivation, 'slash and burn' agriculture

Measures for mitigation include:

→ Adopting of safe agricultural practices : contour bunding, terrace farming

→ promotion of afforestation

→ proper, comprehensive environmental impact assessment before commencing any developmental project

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ early warning system

→ community participation

→ GIS mapping

→ timely rehabilitation of vulnerable sections.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Give a brief account of Earth's heat budget. Also discuss how increasing concentration of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere effects it.

पृथ्वी के ऊष्मा बजट का एक संक्षिप्त विवरण दीजिए। साथ ही चर्चा कीजिए कि पृथ्वी के वायुमंडल में कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड की निरंतर बढ़ रही सांद्रता इसे किस प्रकार प्रभावित करती है।

Earth's Heat Budget is based on the principle of earth's net zero gain / loss of heat.

According to this, the Earth neither gains heat nor loss heat. This is because the amount of heat it gains is eventually lost. This helps ensure that Earth's temperature remains the same.

For instance, for every 100 units of heat energy incident on Earth. Only 65 units are absorbed by the Earth and the rest is radiated

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

back into the atmosphere. These reflected 35 units are explained by the effect of ALBEDO.

The 65 units are absorbed by the (51 units) surface and the (14 units) atmosphere of the earth. By processes of condensation, radiation, convection, the 65 units are finally too emitted out.

Thus, there is not gain or loss of heat. This is called the Earth's Heat Budget.

Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) today is considered as the most potent gas responsible for the greenhouse effect and thus, global warming.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

CO_2 is the greenhouse gas most emitted by humans (75% of the total amount of gas emitted).

This increasing concentration of CO_2 in the earth's atmosphere increasingly affects it. Increasing CO_2 amounts contributes to the Greenhouse effect leading to increasing temperature of earth. ~~The increase~~

The increasing CO_2 concentration also adversely affects the Heat Budget.

Due to increased retained heat by the CO_2, earth is put on extra effort to emit the extra heat. However, this can continue only upto a limit after which there would be a net gain of heat leading to Global warming.

Thus, increasing amounts of CO_2 imbalances the Heat Budget.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. Give an outline of the major geological events that have shaped the present drainage system of Peninsular India. Also, explain why peninsular rivers are unsuitable for navigation but facilitate hydroelectric power generation.

प्रायद्वीपीय भारत के वर्तमान अपवाह तंत्र को आकार प्रदान करने वाली प्रमुख भू-गर्भीय घटनाओं की एक रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत कीजिये । साथ ही स्पष्ट कीजिए कि ऐसा क्यों हैं कि प्रायद्वीपीय नदियां नौवहन के लिए अनुपयुक्त हैं लेकिन जलविद्युत उत्पादन को सुविधाजनक बनाती हैं।

Peninsula Drainage System has some unique features:

- seasonal nature of flow
- most rivers drain into the Bay of Bengal
- while flowing river from estuarine deltas, delta formation is missing in the western Rivers

Major geological events are the reason behind this.

- The striking of the Indian Plate with the Eurasian Plate create a depression in the North. This is led to the loss

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of water from perennial rivers of the North, contributing to seasonal flow of Peninsular rivers

- the submergence effect on the western coast and step-like orientation of western Ghats leads to west flowing rivers to debouch into the sea without forming deltas.
- the geogological orientation, tilt of the Peninsular towards the East cause most rivers to fall in to the Bay of Bengal.

Peninsular Rivers are suitable for hydroelectric power generation as the rivers flow through mountains of extensive heights, rivers fall off steep cliffs. This offers high potential energy which can be used for

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

generating hydropower.

But these rivers are not suitable for ~~generation~~ navigation. This is attributed to the seasonal flow of the rivers. For almost half a year, the rivers turn out dry and thus are not suitable for navigational purposes.

The rich vegetation of the western ghats, the short courses of the western Rivers and the heavy erosion of the Eastern side by East flowing rivers are additional reasons.

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17. Elaborate with examples as to how government policies influence the location of industries. Also, mention the steps taken by the Government of India to stimulate industrial activity in backward regions.

उदाहरण सहित व्याख्या कीजिए कि किस प्रकार से सरकारी नीतियां औद्योगिक अवस्थिति को प्रभावित करती हैं। साथ ही, भारत सरकार द्वारा पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में औद्योगिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा देने हेतु उठाए गए कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Government Policies play a significant role in influencing the location of industries. This is primarily because of the incentives they provide in the form of:

→ easier government clearances

→ easier land acquisition norms

→ availability of raw material at ~~afford~~ affordable prices / rates

→ transportation facilities

→ export facilities

→ market access

→ provides the advantage of geographical ~~inter~~ inertia.

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→ access to power/energy, capital, labour.

In this respect the Government has taken significant steps to stimulate industrial activities in the backward regions:

→ relaxation of land acquisition norms

→ access to nearby sources of energy

eg - Shakti Policy to link power producers with coal producers

→ incentives for employees locals

→ easy access to capital

→ special economic zones

→ relaxation of export, import norms.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. Explain, in brief, the process of cloud formation. Also, elucidate how clouds can help in weather forecasting.

संक्षेप में बादल बनने की प्रक्रिया की व्याख्या कीजिए। साथ ही स्पष्ट कीजिए कि मौसम के पूर्वानुमान में बादल किस प्रकार सहायता कर सकते हैं।

Clouds refer to the condensation of water at a fairly large scale in the upper layers of the atomosphere.

There are 2 preconditions for the formation of clouds:

→ Air must be saturated with water

→ there should be enough condensation nuclei around which water vapours can condense to form water droplets/ ice.

Clouds are formed when water vapour happens to cool down its

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dew point and further below which condenses into water droplets and/or ice.

Clouds play a crucial role in weather forecasting. Clouds have an important role to play in predicting:

→ duration and amount of sunlight

→ rainfall : Clouds give rain, but all clouds don't give rain

→ clouds also determine prevalent weather conditions, temperature and humidity levels

Therefore, clouds have a crucial role to play as a weather controller.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. The socio-economic and ecological consequences of soil degradation are far-reaching. Discuss. Suggest measures that can be taken to restore soil fertility and arrest soil degradation.

मृदा निम्नीकरण के सामाजिक-आर्थिक एवं पारिस्थितिक परिणाम दूरगामी प्रभाव डालने वाले होते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। मृदा उर्वरता को पुनर्स्थापित करने एवं मृदा निम्नीकरण को रोकने हेतु किए जा सकने वाले उपाय सुझाइए।

According to Franklin D. Roosevelt, "the nation that destroys its soil destroys itself".

Soil degradation is referred to as the decline in the soil fertility, fall in the nutrient capacity of the soil and fall in the soil depth.

There are far-reaching socio-economic and ecological consequences of soil degradation.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC consequences

(1) decreased agricultural productivity

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(2) increased farmer distress

(3) decline in agricultural income

(4) rise in farmer suicides

(5) loss of food security

(6) greater rural to urban migration

(7) overcrowding of urban centres

(8) proliferation of slums.

Ecological consequences

(1) soil erosion (69% of Indian soils face erosion of some kind)

(2) desertification

(3) increased frequency of floods and droughts

(4) loss in natural vegetation and biodiversity

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Measures required to address soil degradation:

(1) Afforestation practices, adequacy of CAMPFA.

(2) planned urbanisation and industrialisation.

(3) prevent overgrazing

(4) prevent excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides, water (causes sanilization, waterlogging)

(5) use of geotextiles

(6) rain water harvesting and watershed management.

(7) contour bunding and terrace farming in hilly regions

(8) planting shelter belts in desert areas.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. Development of island territories requires a careful balancing of environmental and tribal concerns with exploitation of economic potential. Elaborating on the threats faced by island territories of India, comment on the recent measures proposed by the government regarding their development.

द्वीपीय क्षेत्रों के विकास हेतु संभावित आर्थिक क्षमताओं के दोहन के साथ ही पर्यावरणीय एवं जनजातीय चिंताओं के मध्य विवेकपूर्ण संतुलन की आवश्यकता है। भारत के द्वीपीय क्षेत्रों द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले खतरों को विस्तार से बताते हुए, उनके विकास के संबंध में सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में प्रस्तावित उपायों पर टिप्पणी कीजिए।

India possesses the island territories of Lakshwadeep islands and Andaman and Nicobar islands which not only have immense economic potential but also are of strategic importance.

Yet any plan for development faces certain threats and challenges :

→ Environmental Concerns :

- loss of biodiversity like coral Reefs in Lakshwadeep

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- issues of flooding & submergence
- marine pollution
- prone to seismic and volanic activity (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

→ Tribal concerns :

- loss of isolation of tribals
- loss of habitats and traditional forested lands
- loss of livelihood
- lack of autonomy

Thus, the environmental, tribal concerns need to be balanced with the economic potential. In this respect, the government has taken following measures to develop these territories –

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ extension of optical fibre-based communication system to these territories

→ early warning systems to prevent the destruction caused by disasters

→ Recent strategic plan for development of Andaman Islands

→ port led development

→ enhancing maritime security

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 875)

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INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
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14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. Centralising recruitment through an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS) will not address the multiple problems in the judiciary and cause new ones instead. Critically evaluate.

अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा (AIJS) के माध्यम से केंद्रीयकृत भर्ती न्यायपालिका में विद्यमान विभिन्न समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं करेगा अपितु उसके स्थान पर नई समस्याएं उत्पन्न करेगा। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Recently the ideas of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) to fill in the seats of the lower judiciary.

Art 312 provides for the creation of an AIJS, which does not require any constitutional amendment after the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

The benefits associated with the introduction of an AIJS include:

- bringing better, fresh talent to the lower judiciary

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- uniformity at level of judiciary in terms of justice dispensation
- attracting youth towards the judiciary.

However, AIJS does not solve the main issues faced by the Indian judiciary which include:

- slow, onerous, delayed judicial system
- increasing cases of corruption in judiciary
- rising number of unfilled vacancies in higher judiciary
- pendency of cases, approximately 2 crore cases in trial courts.

Moreover, the introduction of an AIJS creates additional challenges:

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- issue of promotion of those already in judicial service in lower judiciary
- inter-state transfer becomes difficult due to lack of uniformity in state laws, language
- undermines the independence of the judiciary.

Therefore, the idea of an AIJS should be introduced after having taken into account all pros and cons and ensuring the states of the Indian judiciary remains unchanged.

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2. The roots of the most pertinent challenges faced by Indian politics today can be traced to the lack of intra-party democracy in candidate selection and internal elections. Discuss.

वर्तमान समय में भारतीय राजनीति द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों के चिन्हों को उम्मीदवार के चयन और आंतरिक चुनावों में दलों के भीतर लोकतंत्र की कमी में देखा जा सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Political Parties are the key institutions in Indian politics. Democratic political parties are necessary to maintain India's democratic polity.

~~However~~ Democratic political parties follow the healthy trend of intra-party democracy. Intra-party democracy requires regular ~~internal~~ elections for leadership posts and for candidature to elections.

However the lack of intra-party democracy present certain pertinent

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challenges for Indian politics today. These include:

- criminalisation of politics
- rising corruption especially during times of corruption
- lack of adequate representation of marginal sections, minorities
- dynastic politics, politics being controlled by a single family or person
- rising incidents of hate speech

Thus, in order to tackle these challenges, intra party democracy is vital. The Law Commission of India makes it mandatory

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to hold intra-party elections at regular intervals. The failure to do so will lead to de-registration of the party.

Thus, intra-party democracy is a key to deepen democracy in India.

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3. While the idea behind merger of autonomous bodies in India is to curb overlapping work and reduce expenditure, it may end up doing more harm than good. Discuss.

यद्यपि भारत में स्वायत्त निकायों के विलय के पीछे निहित कारण उनके कार्यों में व्याप्त अतिव्यापन को रोकना और व्यय को कम करना है, लेकिन यह स्थिति को सुधारने के स्थान पर अधिक नुकसान कर सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently the idea of merging various autonomous bodies in India was mooted.

The obvious advantages in such a merger include:

- prevent overlapping of work
- minimising expenditure
- supports the idea of "maximum governance, minimum government"
- efficiency in functioning

However, such a merger may

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pose certain challenges which may undo the accruing benefits:

- complexity in processes
- power sharing and distribution among the leaders of different bodies
- difficulties in joint administration of diverse mandates of different bodies
- may intern slow down processes if not having a robust, inter-department coordination interface.

Therefore, the merger of autonomous bodies poses certain challenges.

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Tackling these issues should serve as a precondition before bringing into effect such a merger.

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4. Well-defined electoral laws and greater powers for the Election Commission of India are required as the existing laws and mechanisms are inadequate to deal with new challenges. Analyse.

सुपरिभाषित चुनावी कानूनों एवं भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के लिए अधिकाधिक शक्तियों की आवश्यकता हैं, क्योंकि मौजूदा कानून और तंत्र नई चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए अपर्याप्त हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

free and fair elections form the 'basic feature' of the Indian Constitution and the edifice of Indian democracy.

However, the Indian election landscape faces certain newer challenges:

- rising criminalisation of politics
- phenomenona of paid news
- greater use of social media
- rising corruption during times of elections

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- growing nexus between politicians and corporate houses

In this respect the existing laws and mechanisms include:

- Representation of People Acts 1950, 1951
- Model code of conduct
- various judgments of Supreme Court for electoral reforms (eg- UOI v/s ADR 2003 case)
- Conduct of Elections Rules by the Election Commission of India

However the existing laws and mechanisms have not been able to adequately address the new challenges.

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In order to tackle these challenges there is a need to :

→ have well defined electoral laws which include norms for:

- intra-party democracy
- declaration of paid news as a punishable electoral offence
- regulation of electoral funding

→ great power of the ECI:

- delay, countermand elections in case of money power (by adding section 58(B) to RPA1950)
- in anti-defection cases
- reforms in ECI itself
- ECI also seeks a lifetime ban on ~~[illegible]~~ those convicted in a court of law

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5. Privileges should be defined and delimited for the free and independent functioning of the legislatures. In this context, discuss whether there is a need to re-examine the balance between fundamental rights and parliamentary privileges in India.

विधानमंडलों के मुक्त और स्वतंत्र कामकाज के लिए विशेषाधिकार परिभाषित और सीमांकित होने चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में, चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या भारत में मूल अधिकारों और संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के मध्य संतुलन के पुन: परीक्षण की आवश्यकता है?

The Indian constitution provides certain ancillary powers to the legislators in the form of parliamentary privileges under Art 105 and similarly for state legislators in Art 194.

Privileges given on the individual basis include:

- freedom from speech
- freedom from arrest
- freedom from juri-service

Privileges are also given on a collective basis.

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However the Constitution does not explicitly mention the privileges enjoyed by the legislators. It simply declares that the legislators enjoy the same set of privileges which were enjoyed just before the 44th Amendment Act.

The issue of parliamentary privileges in conflict with fundamental rights was first discussed by the Supreme Court in the Search light case and later in the Blitz case. The S.C. ruled that fundamental rights and parliamentary privileges are not anti-thetical to each other.

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The SC. gave the Doctrine of Harmonious Balance between the fundamental rights and the ~~parlia~~ parliamentary privileges.

Yet today there is a need to re-examine the privileges today. Privileges need to be written down explicitly in black and white. This is ensure that privileges are not misused by the legislators in any which manner, as recently seen in the case of the Karnataka legislature announing jail sentence for 2 journalists for infringement of the privileges.

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6. The principle of accountability is an essential part of the rule of law. In this context, discuss the lacunae in government's approach and judiciary's response to the phenomenon of extrajudicial killings in India.

उत्तरदायित्व का सिद्धांत विधि के शासन का एक अनिवार्य अंग है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में न्यायेतर हत्या की घटनाओं के प्रति सरकार के दृष्टिकोण एवं न्यायपालिका की प्रतिक्रिया में विद्यमान कमियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Accountability is a primary consideration for maintenance of the rule of law.

Answerability ensures answerability and responsibility which is necessary in case of extra-judicial killings as well.

Custodial death or even death caused in "disturbed areas" may qualify as extra judicial killings.

The judiciary has time and again expressed its resentment against extra judicial killings. Recently, the Supreme Court declared that the Armed forces

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Special Powers Act does not provide "absolute immunity" to the ~~armed~~ army personnel.

However there exists a lacuna between judiciary's response and the government's approach as:

- in many case government adopts a lackadaisical attitude
- in some instances, "immunity" is justified as under AFSPA so as to boost the morale of the Armed Forces
- inadequate ~~minimum~~ mechanisms to ensure accountability
- lack of adequate police reforms. Prakash Directives of the S.C ~~[illegible]~~ are not fully operational.

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Accountability in matters of extra-judicial killings can only be ensured if both the judiciary and the government take incremental steps and collaborate to tackle this phenomenon.

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7. Explain the rationale behind enacting the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. Discuss how it can help in revitalizing consumer confidence in the real estate market. Also highlight the hurdles that remain in implementing it.

स्थावर संपदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) कानून, 2016 {रियल एस्टेट (रेगुलेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट) एक्ट, 2016} को अधिनियमित करने के पीछे निहित तर्क की व्याख्या कीजिए। चर्चा कीजिए कि यह स्थावर संपदा बाजार में उपभोक्ताओं के विश्वास को पुनः सशक्त करने में किस प्रकार सहायता कर सकता है। साथ ही इसके क्रियान्वयन में विद्यमान बाधाओं पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The enactment of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 is considered as one of the most dynamic reforms in India's real-estate sector.

The Real-Estate Act / RERA was enacted based on the rationale to better regulation of the real estate sector, minimise developer's arbitrariness and boost consumer confidence.

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The RERA has great potential to revitalise consumer confidence because:

- it offers better protection of consumers from frauds
- rationalises the real estate pricing
- brings greater certainty in the real estate sector in terms of project completion, tackling delays, payments

However, the RERA faces certain impediments, hurdles in its functioning and implementation. These include:

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- prevalence of black economy
- cumbersome property registration process
- inability of local bodies to appropriate property tax

Therefore, the challenges need to be overcomed and tackled in order to implement RERA both in law and spirit.

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8. Moving the subject of water from state list to concurrent list will solve the issues related to governance of water resources. Comment.

जल को राज्य सूची के विषय से समवर्ती सूची में स्थानांतरित करने से जल संसाधन के प्रशासन से संबंधित मुद्दों का समाधान हो जाएगा। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Water is a strategic asset in India. With more than 16% of the world's population and just 4% of the world's water resources, availability of water remains a critical issue

At present water comes under the State list as Entry No. 17.
Moving water from the state list to the concurrent list can address various issues related to governance of water resources:
- resolve inter state water disputes (for inter-state rivers)

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- aid in groundwater conservation and prevent its exploitation.
- inter linking of rivers will be easier.
- construction of water reservoirs, dams
- construction of inland waterways

However, shift of the water subject alone does not offer the panacea because:

- what is required is greater political will to resolve issues
- Centre enjoys sufficient mandate under the Constitution as "inter-state rivers, river valleys" features

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in the concurrent list.

Therefore, shift of the water subject along with additional measures can help address issues in water governance.
In this context, the government has recently even proposed the Inter State Water Dispute (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

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9. Give an account of the areas of potential conflict in the relationship between the political executive and civil servants. Also discuss why a healthy working relationship between the two is critical for good governance.

राजनीतिक कार्यकारिणी और सिविल सेवकों के मध्य संबंधों में संभावित संघर्ष के क्षेत्रों का विवरण दीजिए। साथ ही चर्चा कीजिए कि सुशासन के लिए दोनों के बीच स्वस्थ कार्यशील संबंध क्यों महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

Political Executive serves as the non-permanent executive in power as per the people's mandate, while the civil servants form the permanent executive.

Potential areas of conflict between the political executive and the civil servants include:

- issue of the government of the day pushing for populist measures
- while the political executive favours quick implementation,

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it is the duty of the permanent executive to ensure procedural correctness

- Ideological inclinations: while civil servants are supposed to be neutral in their approach, however the ruling party is driven by a particular ideology

- financial issues: sometimes the politicians advocate increased fiscal spending but the civil servants may advocate fiscal prudence.

A healthy working relationship between the two is of utmost priority for good governance because:

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- it helps maximise public welfare
- it boost both inter-ministerial/ department and intra-ministerial coordination
- it prevents creation of a spoils system due to politicisation of the bureaucracy.
- A healthy relationship ensures that both the people's mandate is respected and ~~the~~ feasible implementation is also ensured.

Thus, the ideal of good governance requires greater collaboration and cooperation between the political executive and the civil servants.

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10. Despite their location in the non-political domain of civil society, NGOs have ended up playing a key, if indirect, role in India's politics. Comment.
सिविल सोसाइटी के गैर-राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में स्थिति होने के बावजूद भी गैर-सरकारी संगठन (NGOs) भारत की राजनीति में भले ही अप्रत्यक्ष, लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण, भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The NGOs are said to have expanded the non-political space and are denoted as the "non-party political process".

NGOs are voluntary organisations which function independently and/or sometimes in aid of government ~~aide as~~ the Ladies.
The chief end of NGOs is promotion of public welfare not necessary through governmental mechanisms.

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Despite being 'non-political', NGOs have played an indirect role in Indian politics in the following ways:

- Since independence, communal or caste based groups have wielded considerable influence. for instance, the RSS
- and in political mobilisation and spreading political awareness regarding pertinent issues like the Narmada Bachao Andolan
- have many a times put pressure on the political system to provide for reforms.

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- aid government bodies in developmental works (like NREGA, NFSA, PDS, etc.)

- even the reach of transnational NGOs has increased after globalisation

- have aided in strategic decision making for the government, for eg → in the National Security Council

Thus, NGOs have played a crucial role in Indian political system which is going to only increase in the passage of time.

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11. Magnitude of India's urbanisation is not unusual but the pattern is. In this context, examine the issues in the governance of cities in India. Also suggest the reforms required to make Indian cities dynamos of competitive sub-federalism.

भारत के शहरीकरण का विस्तार असामान्य नहीं है लेकिन पैटर्न असामान्य है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरों के प्रशासन से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही भारतीय शहरों को प्रतिस्पर्धी उप-संघवाद के डायनेमो बनाने के लिए आवश्यक सुधारों हेतु सुझाव दीजिए।

Presently one-third of the Indian population resides in urban areas which is set to increase over 50% by 2050.

Thus, even though India is increasingly getting urbanised but the pattern of such urbanisation seems distorted. This is because of the various issues faced by cities in matters of governance. These include:

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- 74th Constitutional Amendment Act : aims at creating units of self-government at local urban level but leaves it to the state in matters of powers and finances

- lack of uniformity in administration. Various types of municipalities exist with different sizes of population under them.

- lack of mohalla sabhas like grama sabhas in the rural panchyati raj system

- lack of effective service delivery mechanism

- lack of access to basic amenities of shelter, water, electricity, etc.

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The Economy Survey 2016-17 on the lines of competitive federalism at the level of the states calls for promoting cities as as dynamos to bring about competitive sub-federalism. This should include:

→ creation of mohalla sabhas

→ increased transfer of powers, finances by states to urban local bodies (as under the items of the 12th schedule)

→ amend 74th Amendment Act to bring about uniformity in administration

→ some states have mooted the idea of an elected City Mayor

Thus, reforms are necessary to promote competitive sub-federalism so that cities emerge as "engines of inclusive economic growth".

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12. Social boycott should be treated as a criminal offence, rather than being considered as just another form of social evil plaguing the Indian society. Examine.

सामाजिक बहिष्कार को वस्तुतः भारतीय समाज को अभिशप्त करने वाली सामाजिक बुराई का केवल एक अन्य रूप मानने के बजाय, एक आपराधिक कृत्य माना जाना चाहिए। परीक्षण कीजिए।

Social boycott is a practice wherein a person or a group of persons are socially ostracised such that the boycotted person/ people are no longer socially acceptable for the members of the community and have LOST all privileges and rights to be a member.

It is manifested in various forms like evident from the practice of untouchability, boycott of single women, widows, boycott of those who are inter-caste married.

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Social Boycott should be treated as a criminal offence rather than just another social evil because:

- it is most importantly illegal. Khap panchayats, ~~Kaga~~ jati panchayats have no legal mandate to take punitive actions
- it suppresses individual choice and liberty
- it lowers down human dignity through the practices like untouchability
- it is against social harmony and peace
- sometimes bodies administering such boycotts make such actions which may adversely affect the lives of the victims. e.g. → HONOUR KILLINGS

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Therefore, social boycott should be treated as a criminal offence. Inputs can be taken by the centre and the state governments from Maharashtra which has emerged as the first state in India to ban social boycott.

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13. Human Trafficking in India has emerged as a serious issue, which calls for understanding the complexity of the problem and devising an effective strategy to combat it. Discuss.

भारत में मानव दुर्व्यापार एक गंभीर समस्या के रूप में उभरा है, जो समस्या की जटिलता समझने एवं इससे मुकाबला करने के लिए एक प्रभावी रणनीति तैयार करने का आह्वान करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

India today faces the grave issue of human trafficking.

However, in order to tackle the issue there is a need to first understand the complexity of the problem of human trafficking.

This can be explained as:

- generally women, girls, children are most prone to trafficking
- they face great exploitation in all forms - mental, sexual, etc.
- traffickers generally use the ploy of economic upliftment,

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steady employment to lure potential victims

- generally it is the tribal population which is most prone to trafficking

- the politician - trafficker nexus is also hard to miss in some areas

- prevalence of cross-border networks of trafficking (eg- North East)

- Human trafficking with its linkages to terror financing, organised crime also poses certain internal security concerns

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An effective strategy to combat human trafficking should encompass:

- Art 23 provides fundamental right against exploitation which also includes human trafficking.
- strict enforcement of Human Trafficking (Prohibition) Act
- improve international border management to cut cross-border linkages
- developing integrated local intelligence networks

Thus, tackling human trafficking requires a calibrated effort in all dimensions - social and security.

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14. A weak teacher education system is at the core of India's problems in school education. Evaluate. In this context, also enumerate the recommendations of the High-Powered Commission on Teacher Education constituted by the Supreme Court of India.

कमजोर शिक्षक शिक्षा प्रणाली स्कूली शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भारत की समस्याओं के मूल में है। मूल्यांकन कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा गठित शिक्षक शिक्षा पर उच्च-स्तरीय आयोग की अनुशंसाओं को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

India today faces a phase of "demographic dividend" which can reap its benefits only when the educational system can transform the children into literate, contributing members of the society.

However, one of the chief problems of India's school education system is the weak teacher education system.

Teachers have the most important role to play in the educational ~~paradi~~ paradigm both in the

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scholastic and co-scholastic realm.
However today we witness a situation of :

- lack of adequately qualified teachers
- absence of a teachers' evaluation mechanism
- rising issue of contractualisation of the teaching profession

In this respect the recommendations of the High-Powered Commission of the Supreme Court are worthy of implementation.

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15. It has been argued that the recent order of the Supreme Court to prevent the misuse of Section 498A institutionalises the prejudices and rehabilitates the myths, which the women's movement in India has battled over decades. Discuss.

यह तर्क दिया जा रहा है कि धारा 498A के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट का हालिया आदेश वस्तुतः उन पूर्वाग्रहों को संस्थागत एवं उन मिथकों को पुनर्स्थापित करता है, जिनसे भारत में महिला आंदोलन ने कई दशकों तक संघर्ष किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Section 498 A of the IPC broadly deals with the issue of violence ~~of~~ against women. Under Sec 498A, any person can be punished for upto 3 years along with fine for committing violence against a woman. It is applied in case of domestic violence.

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) proposed sweeping changes whereby:

- district level family committees are to be constituted which will look into the complaint

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under Sec 498A and only on its approval a case can be registered.

- The committee may comprise of ~~[illegible]~~ wives of government officials, local heads and leaders, etc.
- it gives the option of video conferencing instead of physical appearance in cases under trial courts.

The chief aims of these measures is to:

- prevent misuse of the law, avoid filing of 'frivolous' complaints
- prevent harassment of family members against whom the case is filed

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However, the measures have certain inherent problems which only perpetuate prejudices and myths. These problems include:

- it can make genuine complaints even more difficult to file
- it does not address the issue of delayed judicial process and insensitivity of police
- it does not address the issue of lack of awareness among the poor, rural areas, tribal areas.

Thus, the issue of protection of women and prevention of violence against women should remain paramount.

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16. As strategic interests between India and US continue to converge, defence has emerged as a major area of cooperation between the two. Discuss the significance and possible implications of this development.

जैसा कि भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के बीच रणनीतिक हितों का एकीकरण जारी है, रक्षा दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग के एक प्रमुख क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है। इस विकास के महत्व और संभावित निहितार्थों की चर्चा कीजिए।

Defence Cooperation is steadily emerging as the core area of the India-USA strategic Partnership.

The significance of the growing defence partnership is evident as:

- India has emerged as USA's "major defence partner
- introduction of the Defence Trade and technology initiative (DTTI) in 2015
- defence partnership is worth 17bn USD today

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- India and US have emerged as "Logistic partners" after the signing of Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)

- joint military exercises (Yudh Abhyaas) along with Malabar maritime exercises

The partnership is significant for India:

- as it helps us diversify our defence imports
- get access to state-of-the-art defence technology and equipment
- elicit support for membership to the NSG after becoming member of the MTCR

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- as US' "major defence partner" India will be treated at par with US Allies like NATO, Australia, etc.

The burgeoning defence partnership has certain implications as well:

- India moving from non-alignment to alignment with the US
- distancing from traditional allies like Russia
- may contribute to increased tensions with China and Pakistan.

The defence partnership for sure is a new element of India-US partnership, but India should continue on the path of non-alignment and strategic autonomy.

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17. India's contribution to peacekeeping missions of the United Nations has remained steadfast despite changes in the nature, form and variety of UN peace keeping missions. Examine.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति स्थापना अभियानों (UN peace keeping missions) की प्रकृति, ढाँचे और आयामों में परिवर्तन के बावजूद संयुक्त राष्ट्र के शांति स्थापना अभियानों में भारत का योगदान निरंतर बना हुआ है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

India is one of the most significant contributors to the UN Peacekeeping (UNPK) missions. This has turned out be ~~one of~~ India's advantage in its quest for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

UNPK missions at present faces certain changes in the nature, form and variety:

→ NATURE : UNPK missions today are not only involved in peacekeeping but also in peace building.

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→ FORM : Missions today not only involve the army personnel but even the police forces and the civilians, non-profit organisations

→ VARIETY : Earlier UNPK missions were created in cases of conflict between 2 or more nations but today we witness UNPK missions working in intra-state conflict resolution (eg- South Sudan, Kosovo)

Nevertheless, despite such fundamental changes, India's contribution remains steadfast:

→ more than 1.5 lakh Indians have worked as 'blue helmets'

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- India has suffered the highest number of causalities in the mission
- India also provides training in UNPK

Therefore, India has garnered much respect and has contributed to evolution of norms in matters of peacekeeping despite all the odds.

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18. India's partnership with Africa is an amalgam of African development priorities as well as India's development objectives. Discuss. Also highlight the initiatives taken by India in this context.

अफ्रीका के साथ भारत की साझेदारी अफ्रीका के विकास की प्राथमिकताओं के साथ-साथ भारत के विकास लक्ष्यों का सम्मिश्रण है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही भारत द्वारा इस संदर्भ में की गई पहलों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

India and Africa share a lot of complimentarities in relations- historical, economically, in ~~accordance~~ accordance to development objectives.

The burgeoning partnership presents an amalgamation of Africa and India's development objectives and priorities. This is evident as:

→ AFRICA sees India as a nation with similar problems of poverty, hygiene and thus requires access to India's cutting edge technology

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- Africa seeks India's collaboration in the fields of renewable energy, creation of social infrastructure, infrastructure development.

→ FOR INDIA, Africa provides:

- access to an upcoming commercial market
- civil nuclear cooperation
- renewable energy collaboration (International Solar Alliance)

In this respect, the initiatives taken by India include:

- India Africa summits
- Africa Development Bank conference in India
- The present government has ensured that all Africa nations have been visited atleast

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once by Indian ministers

- idea of ~~Africa~~ Asia Growth corridor

- India has contributed $7bn in about 140 infrastructural projects in Africa

- India has contributed 1bn USD in development partnership with Africa.

Therefore, the present dynamic policy of engagement should be continued in order to provide shared growth ~~of~~ of "2 growth poles" of the world.

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19. Comment on the role of International Court of Justice in upholding the values of international law. In this context, also highlight the association of India with the ICJ over the years.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विधि के मूल्यों को बनाए रखने में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय की भूमिका पर टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, विगत वर्षों में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय के साथ भारत के संबंध को भी प्रकाशित कीजिये।

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is also referred to as the UN Court or the World Court.

The ICJ provides for upholding the international law through:

- its mechanism of compulsary jurisdiction
- providing advice in matters of legality to UN designated agencies
- The UNSC can legally enforce the ICJ judgments.

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As part of the UN, India too is a party to the statute of ICJ, however India has not accepted the ICJ's compulsary jurisdiction in a number of matters.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. In view of the focus on trans-regional economic corridors and changing regional geo-politics and geo-economics, critically discuss the idea of an Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor.

पार-क्षेत्रीय आर्थिक गलियारों एवं बदलती क्षेत्रीय भू-राजनीति और भू-अर्थनीति को ध्यान में रखते हुए, भारत-प्रशांत आर्थिक गलियारे के विचार पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor has the ability to create a "free and open" Asia-Pacific Region.

Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor offers various potential benefits in the form of:

→ increased economic cooperation and collaboration

→ securing SLOCs (sea lines of communication)

→ also offers geo-political advantages

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Asia Africa Growth Corridor as recently proposed by India and Japan can be seen as an application of the ~~the~~ idea of an Indo-Pacific Economic corridor.

It can be seen as an alternative to China's OBOR. In some respects it has an upper hand as it provides for:

- development partnership which is people oriented
- ~~is~~ transparency
- less carbon footprints

Thus, the idea of an Indo-Pacific

Pto →

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Economic corridor is worth consideration in times of proliferation of trans-regional economic corridors which are changing geopolitical and geoeconomical dynamics.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 876)

Name of Candidate	NAVNEET MANN		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG.	Registration Number	36473
Center	ORN	Date	1/10/17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

75, 3rd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar Market, Near Axis Bank, New Delhi – 110060

103, 1st Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. While India has taken a number of steps in order to substantially improve its ranking in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' Index, it needs to take further action in this regard. Elaborate. Also analyse the utility of these rankings vis-a-vis India's objective of facilitating a sound entrepreneurial environment.

   जहां, भारत ने विश्व बैंक के 'इज ऑफ़ डूइंग बिज़नेस' (व्यापार करने की सुगमता) सूचकांक में अपनी रैंकिंग में सार्थक सुधार करने हेतु कई कदम उठाए हैं, वहीं भारत को इस संबंध में आगे और अधिक कार्यवाही करने की आवश्यकता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही सुदृढ़ उद्यमिता वातावरण प्रदान करने के भारत के उद्देश्य के परिप्रेक्ष्य में ऐसी रैंकिंग की उपयोगिता का भी विश्लेषण कीजिए।

India is ranked at 130th position in the latest World's Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' Index Ranking.

India since the past few years has taken multiple steps to improve the ranking by providing easier clearances, promoting public private partnerships, inter-ministerial coordinations, efforts to cut red tape.

→ However, further action is needed to drastically bring a change as –

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- since the last year when India was ranked at 131st position, we have shown only a single-position ascend
- the goal of entering in the Top50 by 2018 remains all the more elusive

→ In this respect, further action can be introduced in the form of :

- getting advice and opinion from external consultants and expert houses
- learning from Georgia which in a couple of years jumped from rank 100 to 16
- improving 'ease of doing business' in states (which the government is through the NITI Aayog state-wise ranking)

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→ These ranking hold much utility in facilitating a sound entrepreneurship environment in India:

- serves as a parameter of ease availability of getting electricity, enforcement of contracts, registration of ~~proper~~ property, etc.
- a good rank will promote FDI

→ However, many do question the utility of focussing on the rank as:

- it takes into account the reforms only in Delhi and Mumbai, not the states
- the latest ranking didn't take into account the Bankruptcy Code, GST
- ~~it~~ isn't apt judge the developed and developing nations on the same parameters..
- India still is one of the top FDI destination despite poor ranking.

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2. In wake of the agrarian crisis that the country is witnessing, discuss the need for adopting an income-centric approach in preference to a production-centric one as the basis of agricultural policy. In this context, also highlight the steps that should be taken to achieve the goal of doubling the income of farmers by 2021-22 and the challenges that exist.

देश द्वारा सामना किए जा रहे कृषि संकट के आलोक में, कृषि नीति के आधार के रूप में उत्पादन-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण के स्थान पर आय-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण अपनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, 2021-22 तक किसानों की आय दोगुना करने का लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने के लिए जो कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए, उनके साथ-साथ विद्यमान चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

* India presently follows a production-centric approach for agricultural policy rather than an income-centric approach. This means the minimum support price (MSP) is production-centric.

A need for shifting to an income-centric approach is advocated because:

→ the production-centric approach has led to crop-distortion patterns
for eg- wheat, rice are excessively sown due to a favourable MSP policy

→ production centric cultivation has led to land, soil degradation as crops

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are sown where they are geographically unsuited for

→ high leakages exist, many marginal farmers aren't even aware about the MSP policy

→ high fiscal burden on government

→ production-centric approach may lead to food inflation

→ food-wastage is possible for crops with favourable MSP policy.

* In order to double farmer incomes by 2022, following steps may be taken:

- a more effective procurement policy and pricing policy

- encouraging animal husbandry, acquaculture as additional sources of income

- creation of fund for providing compensation in case of disasters, natural calamities (M.S. Subramanian Commission)

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- effective marketing policy
- promotion of cultivation based on agro-climatic zones

* However following challenges exist in doubling farmer incomes by 2022:
- low productivity of land, even lower than world average
- fragmentised land holdings
- lack of adequate land reforms
- lack of adequate forward and backward linkages
- minimal focus on agricultural research (< 1% of agri-GDP)
- climate change
- cereal-centric production

Therefore, these challenges need to be overcome in order to substantially improve the condition of farmers.

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3. It is argued that India's fiscal centre of gravity has rapidly shifted from the Centre to the States. Analyse the statement in context of the debate on fiscal discipline. Also, enumerate the key recommendations of the N.K. Singh panel on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act.

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि भारत का राजकोषीय गुरुत्वाकर्षण का केंद्र तेजी से केन्द्र से राज्यों की ओर स्थानांतरित हुआ है। राजकोषीय अनुशासन पर वाद-विवाद के संदर्भ में इस कथन का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, राजकोषीय उत्तरदायित्व एवं बजट प्रबंधन अधिनियम पर एन. के. सिंह पैनल की प्रमुख अनुशंसाओं को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Since 1947, India's fiscal centre of gravity has gravitated from the centre towards the states.

→ Till 1991: under the 'mixed economy' regime with planning at forefront, states had ~~full~~ little say in fiscal matters, fiscal prudence was not a consideration

→ 1991 - 2003: As the Centre 'rolled back' after the LPG Reforms, states got more prominence in fiscal matters

→ 2003 - present:

- The FRBM Act was enacted in 2003.
- Similar state-wise laws were

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also enacted.

- within a few years states were able to control their fiscal deficit and even wipe out the revenue deficit and exercised fiscal prudence
- states undertook various reforms like rationalisation of salaries and wages, pragmatism in Budget, reducing off-Budget expenditure.

Thus over the years, the fiscal centre of gravity has shifted towards the states which have also ensured fiscal prudence.

In this respect the recommendations of the N.K. Singh Panel seem to be insightful. It recommends —

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- flexibility in reaching 3% to GDP Fiscal Deficit target
- replacing the FRBM Act with a newer act for the 21st century India
- relaxation of norms in matters of national security, calamities, emergency, disasters
- form an Independent fiscal council to monitor Centre's budgetary targets
- instead of fiscal deficit, debt as % of GDP should be considered.
- debt as % of GDP should ≤ 60% by 2023.

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4. Strategic sale of state-run firms is a prudent step to deal with the challenges being faced by the public sector enterprises in India. Comment. Also enumerate other measures that can be taken in light of NITI Aayog's suggestions in this regard.

भारत में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए राज्य-संचालित उद्यमों की रणनीतिक बिक्री एक विवेकपूर्ण कदम है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही इस संबंध में नीति आयोग के सुझावों के प्रकाश में उठाए जा सकने वाले अन्य उपायों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Strategic sale of state-run firms involves selling off a portion of the stakes of the government in the private sector without relinquishing government's ownership.

Strategic sale is a prudent step to tackle the various challenges faced by the PSUs in the form of:

- stagnation
- lack of innovation
- dwindling profit share and market-share

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- increased competition from ~~market etc~~ private leaders
- lack of effective autonomy to take decisions
- many PSUs turning into "white elephants".

Thus, strategic sale will ensure that PSUs can:

- function more independently
- work with greater competitiveness
- enhance innovation
- also be seen as a medium to raise capital by the government which could be ~~investedent~~ invested by the government for raising potential of PSUs.

(PTO →)

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In this respect, the NITI Aayog has made a number of recommendations in favour of strategic sale of PSUs which are not performing up to the mark.

NITI Aayog had recommended strategic sale of around 90 Public firms and shutdown of around 20 public firms.

Other measures include:

→ adequate use of National Innovation Fund to promote innovation in PSUs

→ linking PSUs with MSMEs so that latter than use expertise, resources of former

→ PSUs may lend excess, unused land to private firms especially startups, small industry

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. Shell companies in India are neither legally defined nor properly understood. Analyse in the light of recent developments, prevalent understanding and steps required to effectively deal with shell companies.
भारत में शेल कंपनियां न तो कानूनी रूप से परिभाषित हैं और न ही उनके विषय में उचित समझ है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों, व्याप्त (प्रचलित) समझ और शेल कंपनियों से प्रभावी ढंग से निपटने हेतु आवश्यक कदमों के आलोक में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Shell companies appear prima facie as genuine companies but in reality only serve as a cloak to hide an illegal business or hide laundered money or to evade taxes.

Shell companies are neither legally defined or properly understood. The Companies Act 2013 itself falls short of effectively dealing with the issue of shell companies.

In this context, recent developments

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have once again brought to light the issue of shell companies. These include:

- Recent exercise of Centre to "name and shame" owners of shell companies by publically disclosing their names
- demonetisation exercise exposed the prevalent web of shell companies
- the recent Rose valley scandal.

Thus, there is a need to bring a paradigm shift in our understanding of shell companies. They pose great danger as they promote:

- money laundering
- black money
- corruption
- tax evasion, avoidance

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- even terror financing
- narrows down tax base
- lowers down tax revenue.

In this context, following steps can be taken:

- use of data mining techniques to identify outliers (Project Insight)
- simply tax laws and tax filing
- make tax administration more robust and efficient
- GST goes a ~~step~~ step ahead in tackling the issue
- amend Companies Act 2013 to deal with shell companies.

Thus, shell companies need to be exposed. Only when this issue is resolved, India will ~~emerge~~ emerge as 'clean'; free from black money.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. If a larger population in India is to be involved in the economy in a big way, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are key. Elaborate. Also discuss the challenges faced by the SME sector in India and give an account of the measures taken by the government to deal with these.

यदि भारत में एक बड़ी आबादी को अर्थव्यवस्था में बड़े पैमाने पर सम्मिलित करना है, तो लघु और मध्यम उद्यम (SMEs) महत्वपूर्ण हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। इसके साथ ही, भारत में SME क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर भी चर्चा कीजिए और इनसे निपटने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का विवरण भी प्रदान कीजिए।

The Indian economy in reality is predominated by the SMEs.

SMEs are smaller than larger industrial firms with respect to the investment made and the operations ~~thov~~ involved.

SMEs offers a way for a larger population to be involved in the economy in a big way as -

- SMEs are major contributors to our economy's manufacturing output
- instead of mechanized processes, SMEs rely on manual labourforce, thus can provide higher employment

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opportunities

- the nature and reach of SMEs is vast and extensive ranging from agri-based cottage industries to mini steel plants. Thus, SMEs can incorporate all from rural to urban areas.

However, the SMEs face certain challenges in India:

- competition from larger, professional firms
- lack of tax concession, rebates from government
- inadequate innovation, R&D
- poor access to funding
- lack of adequate infrastructure

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In this context, the government has taken following measures :

→ MUDRA Bank for access to adequate financing

→ tax concessions (upto 25%), rebates for SME functioning as limited liability companies in Budget 2017-18

→ Zero Effect Zero Defect scheme to create world class, high quality products

→ New Public Procurement Policy 2017 which encourages procurement from local sources, and provides for reciprocity principle for other countries

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7. What are the reasons for the growing informalization of industrial labour in India? Discuss the issues associated with the phenomenon and reforms required to deal with them.

भारत में औद्योगिक श्रम के बढ़ते अनौपचारीकरण के क्या कारण हैं? इस परिघटना से जुड़े मुद्दों और उनसे निपटने हेतु आवश्यक सुधारों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Informalisation of industrial labour refers to increasingly higher proportion of the population being employed in the informal sector rather than the formal sector. At present, more than 92% of the workers in India are employed in the informal sector.

→ Reasons for growing informal labour:

- prevalence of capital-intensive rather than labour intensive industries
- weak manufacturing, industrial infrastructure

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- lack of adequate skills with changing times
- lack of labour laws reforms due to which employers themselves favour informal labour
- spatial mismatch between jobs and works
- rolling back of state
- lack of effective public investment in creating adequate number of formal jobs

→ The issues associated are:

* workers: • get poor wages, salaries
  • no social security benefits
  • lack of a formal job, creates problems in access to credit

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* employers : even though enjoy short term benefit, but are not able to develop industry-specific human capital in the long run

* nation : • contributed of informal workers to national income goes unassessed
• becomes difficult in assessing minimum wages

→ following Reforms are required :

- skill development of workers (eg - PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Skill India Campaign)
- enhance public investment in labour intensive industries (eg - Rs 6000 cr package for Textile Industry)
- government should provide incentives to employers to hire more employees (eg - by paying EPF's contribution of employers)
- reforming labour laws.

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8. A number of far-reaching developments have taken place in the local and global energy space which have to be reflected in our own energy policy framework. Discuss.

स्थानीय और वैश्विक ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कई दूरगामी घटनाएं घटित हुई हैं, जिन्हें हमारी अपनी ऊर्जा नीति के ढांचे में प्रतिबिंबित होना है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Presently, India's energy contribution matrix can be seen as follows:

Energy Source	%age contribution
→ coal	60%
→ Renewable Energy	16%
→ Hydropower	14%
→ Gas	≈ 8%
→ nuclear	1.8%
→ others	< 0.2%

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Far reaching developments have taken place in the recent times both in global space and local space, both of which should be reflected in our energy mix.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS :

- increased aversion to use of coal since Paris Agreement
- use of shale gas in USA
- stagnancy in the use of nuclear energy
- increased use of sources of renewable energy

LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS :

- fall in prices of solar and wind energy

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- discovery of methane hydrates
- use of unconventional sources of energy like coal bed methane, biofuels.

In this respect, India's energy mix should:

- emphasise on increasing contribution of Renewable energy
- reducing coal dependence
- a prudent approach towards use of nuclear energy should be adopted
- also include diversified energy imports (eg- shale gas from USA)

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9. The Indian IT-BPM (Information Technology-Business Process Management) industry is a global powerhouse today and its impact on India and the world has been unprecedented. Comment. Also, mention the challenges being faced by India's IT-BPM sector.

भारतीय IT-BPM (Information Technology-Business Process Management या सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी-व्यापार प्रक्रिया प्रबंधन) उद्योग आज एक वैश्विक शक्ति का केंद्र है और भारत एवं विश्व पर इसका प्रभाव अभूतपूर्व रहा है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत के IT-BPM क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

India's IT-BPM industry has emerged as a world leader in the IT industry.

Its impact on the world and India has been profound.

→ IMPACT ON INDIA :

- major contributor to GDP growth, Service sector's contribution to GDP is 65%.
- attracts FDI
- increased foreign exchange, remittances
- jobs to the Indian youth

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→ IMPACT ON THE WORLD:

- provides jobs to people from USA to Latin America to Africa
- has emerged as an indispensible partner for firms abroad for the services they ~~do~~ provide
- promote human resource development in developing countries of south America and Africa

However, the industry faces several challenges at present

- stricter visa norms in USA, Britain, Australia, etc.
- stagnation in domestic sector
- increased competition faced from china, singapore, etc.

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- lack of WTO's Free Service pact.
- fall in global demand

Thus, the IT-BPM sector of India needs to revive in order to contribute to India's growth story.

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10. An effective multi-modal logistics and transport sector will make the Indian economy more competitive. Analyse.

एक प्रभावी मल्टी-मॉडल लॉजिस्टिक्स (बहु-रूपात्मक संभरण) और परिवहन क्षेत्रक भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को और अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The logistics and the transport sector serves as the principle and core driver of India's economy with a multiplier effect of 5times the investment made.

An effective multi-modal and transport sector provides for various benefits which will make the Indian economy more competitive.

These benefits include:

- access to greater funds for development of sector. India

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presently need 1 trillion USD to ramp up its infrastructural sector

- greater synergies between different modes of transport which will prevent wastage of resources

- will help streamline the transport sector so that the respective mode deals with the traffic it is best ~~suited~~ suited for.

eg → Roads → Passengers
Rails → Freights

- opens up various channels of transportation within states, among states and beyond the borders.

Therefore, this helps makes the economy more competitive. In

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addition to this, a separate infrastructural/transport Budget can also be proposed.

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11. Climate change threatens sustainable development, impairs socio-economic development and reinforces cycles of poverty across the globe. In this context, discuss the utility of climate risk insurance as an instrument within a comprehensive climate risk management system.

जलवायु परिवर्तन पूरे विश्व में संधारणीय विकास को जोखिम में डालता है, सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास को क्षीण करता है और गरीबी के चक्र को मजबूत बनाता है। इस संदर्भ में, व्यापक जलवायु जोखिम प्रबंधन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत एक साधन के रूप में जलवायु जोखिम बीमा की उपयोगिता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

"Climate change is happenning here and happenning now", according to former US President Barack Obama.

Climate change is at present is the single biggest reality at present which haunts the mankind everday.

Climate change threatens sustainable development as puts in peril the future of the next generations.

Climate change impairs socio-economic development as leads to food insecurity,

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erratic weather behaviour, crop failures.

Climate change also reinforces the cycle of poverty as the worst affected by climate change are the poor. Climate Refugees also increasingly fall into the cycle of poverty.

In this context, a comprehensive climate risk management system is of utmost necessity as it has the potential to minimise risks associated with climate change.

In this respect, climate risk insurance has much utility to offer: →

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- acts as a mitigation measure against climate change
- protects farmers from the vagaries of monsoon, crop failures
- can tackle the phenomenon of climate refugees
- can serve as a hedge to deal with climate change calamities like floods, droughts, etc.

Thus, the idea of a climate risk insurance can be mooted.

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12. Why are women particularly vulnerable to the impact of natural disasters? Also analyse, with adequate examples, how women can play a more effective role in disaster risk management cycle.

प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के प्रभावों के प्रति महिलाएं विशेष रूप से सुभेद्य क्यों होती हैं? साथ ही, समुचित उदाहरणों के साथ विश्लेषण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार महिलाएं आपदा जोखिम प्रबंधन चक्र में अधिक प्रभावी भूमिका निभा सकती हैं।

→ Vulnerability to natural disasters is an indicator of different groups/individuals being differently exposed to disasters and thus facing different risks in case of disasters.

women are typically considered as vulnerable to impact of natural disasters as they face various forms of vulnerabilities:

→ Physical vulnerability:

lack of adequate amount of physical might and strength

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→ Social and prejudical vulnerability:

Patriarchy is evident only in times of disasters when women have no decision making power and are forced to scarifice

→ Post-Disaster vulnerability:

Some women may face suffer from post-disaster trauma and shock which requires adequate counselling.

→ (*) Women have a pivotal role ~~to~~ in the disaster risk management cycle. The disaster risk management cycle involves the steps of mitigation, prevention, prepadeness.

PTO →

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women can play a more effective role in the following ways:

→ spread awareness about disaster risk within family, children and community

→ develop community participation to use traditional knowledge to reduce disaster risks

(eg): Building check dams in flood prone areas or rain water harvesting (khadins, johads) in drought prone areas

→ coordination with voluntary groups in developing early warning systems upto the last mile

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13. In view of the seriousness of heat waves and its consequences, greater attention is required for dealing with it as a natural disaster. Analyse in the context of recent developments and the actions taken by relevant government bodies.

हीट वेव (ग्रीष्म लहर) और उसके परिणामों की गंभीरता के आलोक में, एक प्राकृतिक आपदा के रूप में इससे निपटने हेतु अधिक ध्यान दिए जाने की आवश्यकता है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों और संबद्ध सरकारी निकायों द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों के संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Heat waves is a phenomenona of summer season wherein the temperatures remain abnormally high for a considerable period of time. For eg → a variation of more than 5-6°c for areas with average maximum temperatures of 40°C.

Heat waves are seen as 'slow, creeping disaster' and need to dealt with as natural disaster because of its consequences which include :

PTO →

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- harmful of human health (heat stroke, dehydration)
- similar adverse effects on animal health
- can cause the local vegetation to dry up
- can even lead to drought-like conditions in absence of adequate rainfall.

In the recent times, the role of heat waves have increased even more due to the dangers of global warming and climate change.

In this context, following steps have been taken by various government bodies:

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- The NDRF has recently issued fresh guidelines to deal with heat waves
- Telangana has recently come up with a heat wave management plan
- The Central government is also encouraging states to come up with their respective heat wave management plans.

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14. While genome editing offers immense potential benefits in the area of healthcare, there are a lot of apprehensions regarding its use. Discuss.

जहां, जीनोम एडिटिंग स्वास्थ्य सेवा के क्षेत्र में बहुत अधिक लाभ की संभावना प्रस्तुत करता है, वहीं इसके उपयोग के संबंध में काफी आशंकाएं भी मौजूद हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Genome Editing involves the modification, alteration, addition, deletion of genetic material or genomes.

Eg → use of CRISPR-Cas9 technique

⇒ Potential Benefits of Genome Editing in Healthcare include :

- will help detect and adequately deal with killer diseases like cancer
- will resolve genetic defects in unborn foetus

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- will help us understand and analyse human genome in a much more comprehensive manner
- will help in enhancing immunity against diseases like dengue, etc. with genetic mutation.

However, there exist lots of apprehensions regarding its use:

- it may be used in cloning which is unethical
- instead of treating genetic defects, it maybe used for treating cosmetic defects of unborn foetus
- its propagation will create

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a divide between developed world which posses the technology and the developing world which doesn't possess it.

- it poses a great risk to human race

Thus, genome editing should be encouraged only after taking into considerations all its pros and cons.

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15. Discuss various ways in which supercomputers have benefitted mankind over the years. Also enumerate the objectives of the National Supercomputing Mission and the mechanism for its implementation.

उन विभिन्न तरीकों पर चर्चा कीजिए जिसके माध्यम से विगत वर्षों में सुपर कंप्यूटरों ने मानव जाति को लाभान्वित किया है। इसके साथ ही राष्ट्रीय सुपरकंप्यूटिंग मिशन के उद्देश्यों और इसके कार्यान्वयन के तंत्र को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Supercomputers are different from conventional desktop computers, laptops. Three are highly sophisticated computers which are used to perform complicated, complex tasks which ordinary computers cannot perform.

Supercomputers have benefitted the mankind in multiple ways:

- it has help us propagate our research works due to the complex, fast calculations performed by it

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- has contributed to the field of quantum physics
- contributed to space research and technology
- calculations which are complex and non-terminating like calculation of value of π (Pi)
- weather forecasting models

Thus, supercomputers have aided the humanity in multiple manners.

In this respect, India's National Supercomputering Mission seeks to enhance the contribution

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of our supercomputers to the country at large. The mission is aimed at achieving the objectives of :

- enhancing the capability of our computers (even higher speed of calculations)
- emerge as a world leader in the field of supercomputering
- encourage use of supercomputers to aid India's economic and financial sector, weather forecasting models, disaster risk warning systems, etc.

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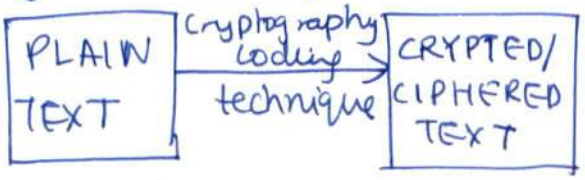
16. Widely seen as a disruption for the traditional banking and financial institutions, cryptocurrencies have gained significant traction lately, at the same time creating a regulatory nightmare for regulators across the globe. Discuss.

पारंपरिक बैंकिंग और वित्तीय संस्थानों के लिए व्यापक रूप से व्यवधान के रूप में देखी जाने वाली, साथ ही विश्व भर में नियामकों के लिए एक नियामकीय दुःस्वप्न का निर्माण करने वाली, *क्रिप्टोकरेंसी* ने हाल ही में महत्वपूर्ण पकड़ स्थापित की है। चर्चा कीजिए।

CryptoCurrency is a form of medium ~~of~~ exchange based on the principle of cryptography. It is a type of digital transaction.

Cryptography can be explained as:



Crypto currencies like Bitcoins are increasingly gaining traction because: →

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- it offers secured, private channel for transactions
- serves as an easy alternative to the formal financial and banking system
- has lower cost of transactions (like no MDR - Merchant Discount Rate)
- low entry barriers
- allows purchase, sale anywhere across the globe

However, cryptocurrencies are seen as a 'regulatory nightmare' because:

- it may promote price volatility and cause economic instability

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- it does not offer liquidity
- can be used as channels for tax evasion, money laundering, terror financing, ransomware
- no assurance of security and protection of assets

The RBI too has recommended the citizens to be mindful before investing in crypto currencies. Seeing the increasing popularity of such currencies, a regulatory environment, however, is of utmost need.

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17. An internationally-binding agreement to strengthen the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 is both desirable and increasingly a necessity. Analyse in view of the traditional and emerging challenges in this arena.

1967 की बाह्य अंतरिक्ष संधि को मजबूत बनाने हेतु एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाध्यकारी समझौता वांछनीय और साथ ही एक आवश्यकता दोनों है। इस क्षेत्र में पारंपरिक और उभरती हुई चुनौतियों के आलोक में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Space is slowly and steadily emerging as a strategic zone.

The outer space treaty (1967) serves as the only internationally recognised treaty to regulate the presence and use of space by member nations.

Traditional challenges posed in the area of outer space include:

- issue of risks associated with venturing into space, loss of lives, equipment in case of space accident

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- high cost, high risk activity

Emerging Challenges :

- issue of space debris (remnants of old space missions, collision with which can lead to accidents)
- increasing militarisation of space
- use of space technology as deterrence
- use of space technology in intelligence gathering

Thus, there is a need to strengthen the Outer space treaty (1967) by →

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- banning all forms of militerisation of space, which earlier was only existing as a limited ban

- boost and encourage cooperation among member nations to use space for productive effects like disaster management, navigation, etc.

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18. Even after nearly 60 years in existence, AFSPA remains at the centre of debates with respect to countering violent insurgencies, role of the states and local communities. Discuss.

अस्तित्व में आने के लगभग 60 वर्षों के बाद भी, हिंसक उग्रवाद का मुकाबला करने और राज्यों व स्थानीय समुदायों की भूमिका को लेकर AFSPA वाद-विवाद के केंद्र में बना हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The AFSPA or the Armed Forces Special Powers Act was enacted in 1958. It was initially promulgated as a temporary provision to deal with the Naga militancy. But over the years it has been extended to Jammu & Kashmir and various states of North East.

AFSPA has been the centre of debates for the longest time.

Supporters advocate continuance of the law on the grounds that:

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- it necessary in order to deal with militancy, insurgency, terrorism which cannot be effectively dealt with under normal circumstances.
- it boosts the morale of the army personnel
- it is necessary for ensuring national security and stability

However, critics demand its repeal because:

- it gives impunity to armed forces to even kill a person even a civilian and face no repurcussions.
- armed forces have acquised of human right violations, sexual violence (eg- in Manipur)

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- Moreover, the Act has done nothing to resolve the crisis for the past 60 years. Its continuation has no potential benefit

Even the Supreme Court, recently declared that the army personnel do not enjoy any "absolute immunity" under AFSPA.

Various committees - J.S. Verma committee, Jeevan Reddy Committee, 2nd ARC - have all recommended either repealing the law and replacing it with a more humane law or water down the present law.

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19. Analyse the challenges and opportunities inherent in the push for indigenisation of defence production in India. Also, identify the measures through which indigenous manufacturing of defence equipments is being encouraged by the Government.

भारत में रक्षा उत्पादन के स्वदेशीकरण की दिशा में निहित चुनौतियों और अवसरों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों की भी पहचान कीजिए जिनके माध्यम से रक्षा उपकरणों का स्वदेशी निर्माण सरकार द्वारा प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है।

Indigenisation of defence production is the most important step through which India's can reduce its import dependency for defence equipment.

Opportunities associated with indigenisation of defence production include:

- reduce import dependence
- contribute to global defence export chains
- develop suitable defence capability and deterrence

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

However, it faces various challenges:

- dominant role of state-led enterprises
- lack of adequate infrastructure
- lack of adequate funds
- private sector is low on experience, expertise
- lack of access to high-end technology

The Government in this respect has taken the following steps:

- The Defence Procurement Policy provides for a new category

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of IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed, Manufactured) which is given the highest preference in procurement

- The Strategic Partnership Model which promotes collaboration between domestic private players and foreign defence equipment manufacturing companies

- agreements on defence technology transfer with Russia
(eg → T-90 tanks, 5th Generation advanced fighter jets)

- DTTI (Defence Trade and Transfer Initiative) with the USA

- 'major defence partner' status by USA

- India joins the MTCR

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20. India's ability to puruse a clear-cut strategic vision depends on its ability to improve institutional cooperation and coordination between the armed forces and civilian bureaucracy. Discuss.

भारत द्वारा एक सुस्पष्ट रणनीतिक दृष्टि का अनुसरण करने की क्षमता वस्तुतः सशस्त्र बलों और सिविल नौकरशाही के बीच संस्थागत सहयोग और समन्वय में सुधार करने की क्षमता पर निर्भर करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

A clear-cut strategic vision is a precondition to maintain national security and deal with security challenges.

India today increasingly faces internal challenges of Naxalism, disturbances in North East and Kashmir and also faces external challenges like cross-border terrorism.

All these risks ~~dee~~ create the need of a clear cut strategic vision.

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However, the key to promote strategic thinking and decision making is possible only when cooperation and coordination between the armed forces and the civilian bureaucracy can be ensured.

This is coordination is possible through various channels like:

- The National security council
- collaboration with think tanks
- developing a National security doctrine which provides role clarity, which in turn promotes coordination
- appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to provide

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a single source of contact and advice.

- ~~active~~ active role of both at the defence training levels, freq: in National Army institutes.

Thus, strategic decision making is possible only when synergies are established between the armed forces and the bureaucracy.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate	NAVNEET MANN		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG	Registration Number	36473
Center	ORN	Date	17/08/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Reservation of seats in legislature is needed to ensure meaningful political participation of women and to make the democratic process truly inclusive. Discuss the statement in the light of 108th Constitution Amendment Bill.

(150 words) 10

महिलाओं की सार्थक राजनीतिक सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करने एवं लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया को सही अर्थों में समावेशी बनाने हेतु विधायिका में सीटों के आरक्षण की आवश्यकता है। 108वें संविधान संशोधन विधेयक के आलोक में इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए।

The 108th Constitution Amendment Bill is aimed at providing 33% reservation of seats in the Parliament and State Legislature to women candidates.

Women Reservation & Meaningful Participation

1) Women in India today constitute 50% of the voter base but the percentage of women MPs remains stagnant at 14% in 17th Lok Sabha elections.

2) Women Reservation fulfills the Constitutional mandate of Right to Equality as given in the Preamble, Art 14 and Art 325.

It also fulfills the international mandate of women empowerment under the CEDAW [Convention Against Discrimination of Women].

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Women Reservation & Inclusive Democracy

1) Women candidates give voice not only to the female electorate but also the other vulnerable sections like children, elderly, etc.

2) Prevents entry of corrupt and criminals. As studies show women candidates are estimated to three times less likely to be involved in criminal activities.

Other Benefits

1) Women candidates are 'women as agency', thus promote social benefits like child nutrition, health, etc.

2) economic development with timely completion of projects (as shown by PM Gram Sadak Yojana surveys).

WAY FORWARD: Women Reservation is a step in the right direction but it should be accompanied by capacity building of women through education. This is because participation without capacity doesn't have much meaning.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. Discuss the issue of reservation in promotions for SCs and STs in public employment in the light of various judicial pronouncements and constitutional amendments. **(150 words) 10**

विभिन्न न्यायिक निर्णयों और संवैधानिक संशोधनों के आलोक में सार्वजनिक नियोजन में SCs और STs के लिए पदोन्नति में आरक्षण के मुद्दे पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently the Supreme Court upheld the policy of reservation in promotions for the SCs and the STs.

Judicial Pronouncements & Constitutional Amendments

1) Indra Sawhney case (1991): SC stated its opinion against reservation in promotions.

2) 77th Amendment Act (1995): Art 16(4A) introduced to ~~promote~~ provide reservation in promotion to SCs & STs.

3) 85th Amendment Act: Provides "consequential seniority" to SCs & STs in promotions.

4) M. Nagaraj case: SC upholds Art 16(4A) but provides the presence of 'quantifiable data' to prove backwardness, inadequate representation and administrative efficiency.

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5) Jarnail Singh case : SC upholds Nagaraj judgment but removes the need of data to prove 'backwardness'.

Pros of Reservation in Promotions	CONS of Reservation in Promotions
① Historically disadvantaged	① Reservation is not a fundamental right.
② skewed representation of SCs and STs in higher ranks	② affects administrative efficiency.
③ vacancies due to lack of quantifiable data.	③ Disadvantages ends with entry in government services.
④ "efficiency" is a misconception. All depends on individual capacity.	④ cornering of benefits by a particular class.

While reservation in promotions is needed to undo the historical disadvantages, but there is a need to reform the affirmative action policy to serve the needs of the truly backward sections.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. Highlight the reasons behind underperformance of the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). How can their performance be improved?

(150 words) 10

स्वायत्त जिला परिषदों (ADCs) के निम्नस्तरीय कार्य-निष्पादन के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। उनके कार्य-निष्पादन को कैसे बेहतर किया जा सकता है?

Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) are self-administered areas of tribals as provided under 6th Schedule of the Constitution in states of Meghalaya, Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.

Powers of ADCs

- self-governance
- administrative powers like taxation, etc.
- legislative powers
- judicial powers

Reasons for underperformance

1) lack of technical capacity among tribals to govern themselves efficiently.

2) overlapping of functions between ADCs and state legislatures

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) lack of clarity about Role of Governor

4) Security challenges: most of these regions suffer from insurgency.

5) lack of adequate representation of women and other ethnic minorities

Measures Required

1) capacity building with participation of state

2) Representation of women, ethnic minorities in councils (as under recent Constitutional Amendment Bill)

3) Greater clarity of functions and roles of the ADCs.

4) ~~Therefore,~~ Making Gram Sabha as nucleus of governance.

Thus, greater synergies with the state government can help ADCs to function efficiently.

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4. Highlighting the rationale behind continuance of the Official Secrets Act, critically discuss whether the Right to Information should be given precedence over it. **(150 words) 10**

शासकीय गुप्त बात अधिनियम की निरंतरता के पीछे निहित औचित्य पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या सूचना के अधिकार को इस पर वरीयता दी जानी चाहिए।

Official Secrets Act (1923) [OSA] is a colonial act which provides for punitive action against the acts of espionage, spying, etc. {Section 3 & Section 5}.

Rationale behind Continuance

1) Emerging internal and external security challenges

2) to protect national security and integrity

OSA & RTI Conflict

The RTI provides national secrets as an exception under Sec 8 of the Act. But it also provides that if 'public interest' overrides, information needs to be disclosed.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Need of RTI's precedence

1) lack of clarity over terms like "official secrets" creates room for arbitrary use of power
2) shoots the messenger: by stifling freedom of speech and expression (Art 19(1)(a))
3) against ethics of journalism

Requirement - balance between RTI & OSA

1) 2nd ARC: calls for replacing OSA with a National Security Act more in sync with the RTI
2) Law Commission in its report "Offences Against National Security" too concurs.
3) High Level Panel Report of MHA (2015) too calls for bringing OSA in line with RTI.

Thus, in today's time of increased citizen participation in governance, establishing synergies between OSA and RTI is the need of the hour.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. Write a short note on India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework. Highlighting its main principles, examine how its full fledged implementation can improve the existing governance landscape of India.

(150 words) 10

इंडिया एंटरप्राइज आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) फ्रेमवर्क पर एक संक्षिप्त लेख लिखिए। इसके प्रमुख सिद्धांतों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इसका पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन भारत के वर्तमान शासन परिदृश्य को उन्नत बना सकता है।

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. What is the rationale behind having a mandatory 'cooling-off' period for retired civil servants? In light of numerous instances of violation of this provision, do you think there is a need to have a relook at Civil Services Conduct Rules? **(150 words) 10**

सेवानिवृत्त सिविल सेवकों के लिए अनिवार्य 'उपशमन' अवधि होने के पीछे क्या औचित्य है? इस प्रावधान के उल्लंघन के कई दृष्टांतों के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि सिविल सेवा आचरण नियमावली पर पुनर्विचार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

A 'cooling off' period is a specific period of time for civil servants after retirement which they serve before joining office under the Government again.

Rational behind Mandatory 'cooling off period'

1) prevents political interference and creation of spoils system
2) avoids conflict of interest and the 'revolving door' problem
3) prevents politicisation of bureaucracy

Need to Civil servants post retirement

Retired civil servants aid in good governance due to the immense knowledge and experience gathered over the years.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Instances of violation of provision

Civil servants entering political offices, becoming Governors, members of constitutional bodies like CAG, UPSC, Election Commission.

Need of Relook at Conduct Rules

1) required to prevent the politican-civil servant nexus
2) Conduct Rules may be followed in law but not in spirit.
3) Presently, they remain vague and need to be updated.

Measures Required

1) civil servants should declare intention at retirement to join offices.
2) greater transparency in appointing procedures.
3) creation of a separate body to deal with appointment ~~with~~ of retired civil servants.

Thus, post-retirement contribution of civil servants is a requirement but there is also a need to bring greater transparency in the appointments.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. Highlighting the key features of POSHAN Abhiyan, explain how it is an improvement over previous interventions in achieving the goal of malnutrition free India. **(150 words) 10**

पोषण (POSHAN) अभियान की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समझाइए कि यह कुपोषण मुक्त भारत के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में पिछले हस्तक्षेपों की तुलना में कैसे समुन्नत है।

Malnutrition is referred to as the imbalances - deficiencies and/or excesses of intake of energy or nutrients.

Status of malnutrition in India

1) Global Hunger Index
- India's rank fell from 100 (2017) to 103 (2018).
- Number of wasted children have increased from 19.8% in 2005 to 21% in 2015 [NFHS - 4]

2) Malnutrition leads to an economic loss of 9-10% for India per year.

3) Global Nutrition Report 2019:
- India has the highest number of stunted children (46mn out of 150mn) in the world

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

POSHAN Abhiyan

1) Target: Reduce Rate of stunting, wasting, anaemia by 2%, 2% and 3% respectively per year with stunting to be reduced to 25% by 2022

2) National - state convergences by National Executive council and state convergence plans

3) use of technology by frontline workers to reduce leakages, improve targeting

4) use of research and data analysis

5) Jan Andolan by Public against malnutrition

Improvement over previous interventions

→ Has a specific target

→ use of new-age technology

→ focused at better targeting

→ upholds spirit of cooperative federalism

Thus, POSHAN Abhiyan is a step in the right direction. It should further incorporate best practices of Dilli Annashri Yojana, ICDS Decentralised Programme of Odisha.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. Highlighting the need of generic medicines in India, give an account of the reasons behind their lower availability and adoption. Also, mention some steps taken by the government in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में जेनरिक दवाओं की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनकी कम उपलब्धता और स्वीकरण हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कुछ कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

India is known as the largest producer of generic medicines in the world. It has contributed to global health in this regard.

Need of generic medicines

- cheaper alternative to branded drugs for majority poor population
- provides same benefits like branded ones
- promotes development of indigenous knowledge and research base
- prevents monopolisation by foreign drugmakes
- help other developing countries (eg- prevention of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Reasons behind lower availability and adoption

1) lack of awareness among public
2) misconceptions about ineffectiveness
3) doctors do not recommend it, ~~per~~ prefer branded medicines
4) lack of adequate marketing capacity by generic drug procedures vis-a-vis branded ones.

Government steps

1) Jan ~~[illegible]~~ Aushadi Program
2) Encouraging doctors to recommended generic drugs
3) Patent Act : Prevent evergreening and allow compulsory licensing.

Thus, generic drugs is an answer to affordable medical care in India. There is a need for the government to give further push to it.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. Give an account of the challenges that the multilateral rule-based trading system is facing. With special focus on WTO, discuss how these challenges can be addressed effectively. **(150 words) 10**

बहुपक्षीय नियम-आधारित व्यापार प्रणाली द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। WTO पर विशेष बल देते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इन चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक समाधान किया जा सकता है।

The multilateral trading system is facing its greatest challenges ever since the Global financial crisis of 2008.

Challenges faced

→ slowdown of global growth of economy

→ rising tendencies of protectionism and deglobalisation

→ US-China trade war

→ inadequate powers of developing world to mould the global finance architecture (eg → low quotas in IMF)

→ issues in calibrating to changing nature of economy due to digitisation, Artificial Intelligence, etc.

→ issue of safe havens/countries, Base erosion and Profit shifting

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Measures to address challenges

1) greater say of developing world in framing rules of the multilateral trading system (eg - Dispute settlement body of WTO)

2) Swift conclusion of the Doha Development Round

3) Issues like Data localisation and TRIPS-Plus Norms should be decided only based on consensus

4) improvement in trade facilitation of services as well to allow free flow of labour.

Thus, radical reforms are required in the present multi-lateral trading system especially the WTO so that it remains the harbinger of growth of the global economy.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. Highlight the major impediments affecting India-US trade relations. What possible consequences can the recent withdrawal of Generalized System of Preference (GSP) have on India-US trade relations? **(150 words) 10**

भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख अवरोधों पर प्रकाश डालिए। हाल ही में, अधिमानता की सामान्यीकृत प्रणाली (जनरलाईज्ड सिस्टम ऑफ़ प्रेफेरेंस: GSP) की समाप्ति से भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों पर क्या संभावित प्रभाव पड़ सकता है?

India-US Trade relations today stand at a staggering $142 bn. for India, US is one of the largest exporter destinations.

Impediments in Trade Relations

1) Trade Deficit
- US calls India "tariff king".
- US has consistently criticised India for higher duties on automobiles, medical devices.

2) IPR issues
- India features as USTR's Sec301 Report's "Priority Watch list".

3) Visa Issues
- India is one of the highest H1B visa recepients
- US has tightened visa norms: fee, eligibility criteria,

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4) subsidies
- US opposes India giving subsidies to its farmers (MSP) and for solar production.

5) WTO: Both are at loggerheads in WTO disputes on local content requirement in solar panel disputes, etc.

General system of Preferences (GSP) is a non-reciprocal preferential tariff system extended by developed countries (US) to developing countries (India). It provides for reduced MFN tariffs for imports from India.

Withdrawal of GSP
→ will adversely affect India's Current Account Deficit, narrow its trade surplus with US
→ adversely affect India's handloom sector
→ further tensions in relations given that India was the largest beneficiary of US' GSP

Thus, negotiations for greater cooperation between India and US must go on which should help India maximise its developmental options.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. In a democratic setup, it is imperative that independence be balanced with accountability. Discuss in the context of judiciary in India. **(250 words) 15**

किसी भी लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में, यह अत्यावश्यक है कि स्वतंत्रता को जवाबदेही के साथ संतुलित किया जाए। भारत में न्यायपालिका के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

"The rule of law and maintenance of order is the art of governance".

- Kautliya (Arthashastra)

Judical Accountability is one of the pillars of judical system as well as governance.

Balance between Independence & Accountability

→ Judicial independence

- Basic feature of Constitution
- necessary for maintaining checks and balances against arbitrary use of power by executive and legislature
- aids Judiciary to work without fear or favour, maintains separation of powers

→ Judicial Accountability

- required to check arbitrary use of power by Judiciary

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- to "guard the guardians"
- to strengthen separation of powers by preventing judical overreach

Issues in Judicial Accountability

→ Appointment of judges under the collegium system, limited say of executive

→ Removal of judges : a highly cumbersome process {Judges Enquiries Act, 1968}

→ Conduct of judges (eg → Recent controversy of sexual harassment allegations against the CJI)

→ In house operations of judges : Lack of transparency in allocation of cases

→ Judiciary remaining outside RTI Act's ambit further erodes transparency

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Use of power under Contempt of Court

→ Judicial Overreach (eg → recent changes in Domestic Violence Act)

Present Mechanisms to provide for Accountability

1) In house mechanism of Supreme Court
   - "Reinstatement of Values of Public Life" (1997)
   - Bangalore Principles of judicial Conduct

3) Judicial Accountability Bill, 2010

3) Recently, the S.C. provided for live ~~proceedings~~ streaming of the court proceedings

4) Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) in Judges' appointment

Thus further measures are required to enforce judicial accountability.

Further Measures Required

1) Passing a new Judicial Accountability Bill, creating a National Judicial Oversight committee

2) Independent judical lokpal

3) Niti Aayog recommends Judicial performance index.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. Despite various strengths, there are certain weaknesses in the existing structure of departments of the government which render the system slow and cumbersome. Analyze. **(250 words) 15**

विभिन्न गुणों के बावजूद, सरकार के विभागों की वर्तमान संरचना में कुछ दुर्बलताएं विद्यमान हैं जो व्यवस्था को धीमा और बोझिल बना देती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The India system of governance works on the motto of "maximum governance and minimum government".

Strengths of government departments

1) formalisation of decision making powers
2) adequate checks and balances to prevent abuse of power
3) accountability through Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs)
4) citizen participation through RTI Act

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Weaknesses of Departments

1) focus on strict compliance of rules only, lack of focus on risk-taking, innovative ideas

2) output orientation, lack of outcome orientation

3) slow progress in digitisation

4) political interference

5) constitutional and other legal safeguards doesn't create incentive to bring reforms (Art 311)

6) inability to detect and punish corruption, crony capitalism

Consequences

1) delays in development projects, hamper ease of doing business

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) poor targeting and leakages in public service delivery

3) incomplete goal achievements of social welfare

Measures Required

1) Improving infrastructure : 2nd ARC recommends 1% cost of flagship schemes for first 5 years in improving infrastructure.

2) Improving people connect by awareness drives, code of conduct, ~~citizen~~ citizen charter

3) digitisation of records

4) Strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms

5) 360° Performance Appraisal system

Thus, reforms in the departmental functioning can bring out the goal of good and ethical governance

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. In the light of criticism surrounding the composition and functioning of Rajya Sabha, do you think it exists merely as a secondary house of the Parliament? **(250 words) 15**

राज्यसभा की संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली से संबद्ध आलोचना के प्रकाश में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि इसका अस्तित्व केवल संसद के एक द्वितीयक सदन के रूप में है?

Recently, the Vice President of India brought out an assessment report of the Rajya Sabha to highlight its reduced functioning.

Criticism of Rajya Sabha

COMPOSITION

1) It serves as a route for the defeated candidates, loyalists, corporate heads to enter politics.

2) Population-Base ~~also~~ seat share doesn't give adequate voice to lesser populated states.

FUNCTIONS

1) Inadequate power vis-a-vis the

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Lok Sabha like in money bills, Budgets, etc.

2) Constant disruptions

3) Politicisation of Rajya Sabha

4) Reduced working hours and legislative work

eg → 2004-09 → >250 Bills passed

2014-19 → 188 Bills passed

This has led to the Rajya Sabha to be regarded merely as the 'Secondary House'. But Rajya Sabha is the 'Second House' and not the 'Secondary House'.

Significance of Rajya Sabha

1) promotes cooperative federalism -

by giving voice to the states at the Union level

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) prevents the Lok Sabha going for populism

3) provides for expert opinion

4) prevents hasty legislation

5) shares legislative burden with Lok Sabha

6) As Permenant House, provides continuity in governance.

Reforms Required

1) National Commission of Reconsidering on Working of Institution (NCRWC) - recommends at least 100 working days of Rajya Sabha.

2) Performance Based Pay.

3) Reforms in Anti-Defection law

4) Stricter enforcement of codes of conduct for MPs

Therefore, as the 'House of the Elders', the Rajya Sabha as great responsibilities. to perform these responsibilities, reforms in the Rajya Sabha as the need of the hour.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. Despite legislative changes with respect to funding of political parties in recent years, many challenges still exist with regards to transparency in electoral funding. Discuss. Can state funding of elections help in addressing these challenges? **(250 words) 15**

हाल के वर्षों में राजनीतिक दलों के वित्त-पोषण के संबंध में विधायी परिवर्तनों के बावजूद, चुनावी वित्त-पोषण में पारदर्शिता संबंधी कई चुनौतियां अभी भी बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। क्या राज्य द्वारा चुनावों का वित्त-पोषण इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता कर सकता है?

Political Funding remains one of the central challenges in India's electoral process.

Legislative changes in funding

1) Amendment to RPA, 1951 to reduce limit of anonymous donations from Rs 20,000 to Rs 2000

2) electoral bonds scheme

3) FCRA Amendment to allow foreign funding for political parties

4) Compulsory filing of election expenditures by candidates to the Election Commission

5) Declaring income/donation under Income Tax Act, and exemption from taxation.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges in Funding

→ 69% of sources of funds unaccounted. (ADR).

→ inadequate powers of ECI to postpone elections in case of bribery.

→ removal of cap of 7.5% of corporate sector contribution

→ foreign funding and reduction of independence of electoral process

State funding of Elections (SFE)

Under this the government will provide for election expenditure to political parties based on their vote share. It has been recommended by the Indrajit Gupta committee, 2nd ARC and NCRWC.

Pros of SFE	Cons of SFE
- increases transparency in electoral funding	- may end up supplementing, not supplanting election funding

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- reduces cash dependence
- curb blackmoney
- windup up of ~~spu~~ spurious political parties created only for getting tax benefits
- tax payers will pay for parties they dont support
- reduce disconnect of parties with citizen
- increased dependence on states

WAY FORWARD

1) Proposal of National Electoral fund where donations can be contributed by the public
2) digitisation of all donations
3) Parties under RTI Act
4) Increased power of ECI under RPA 1951 to monitor funding.

Thus, along with SFE, other options need to be explored to promote clean election funding.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Successful and long-lasting urban transformation critically depends on reforming the way our cities are governed. In this context, highlight the challenges plaguing urban governance in India and suggest some strategies to overcome those challenges. **(250 words) 15**

सफल और चिरस्थायी शहरी रूपांतरण मुख्यतया, हमारे शहरों को शासित करने के तरीके में सुधार पर निर्भर करता है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी शासन को दुष्प्रभावित करने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए कुछ रणनीतियों का सुझाव दीजिए।

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act provides for the decentralisation of power to provide local governance in urban areas.

Challenges in urban governance

1) multiplicity of bodies
2) rising population (due to migration) and unequal representation at level of municipalities
3) ceremonial powers of Mayor
4) political interference

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5) lack of adequate financing with ULBs

6) lack of citizen engagement

7) absence of a urban planning strategy

Steps taken by government

1) Smart Cities Mission - use of ICT in aid of governance

2) Ease of living in Cities Index by MoHUD to assess cities on governance

3) schemes like AMRUT, DAY-NULM, PMAY-U, etc.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Further strategies required

1) mohalla sabhas like in Delhi to increase citizen engagement

2) use of citizen satisfaction surveys, charters, report cards (eg Bangalore)

3) increase powers of Mayors

4) use of municipal bonds to improve financing.

5) creation of ~~city~~ city specific urban planning strategy and plan

In the coming years, more than 50% of India's population will be residing in cities. Urban governance's transformation, thus is of utmost requirement.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. Explain the role that SHGs play in poverty alleviation in India. Highlighting the shortcomings of the SHG-Bank Linkage programme, give some suggestions to improve its performance. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में निर्धनता उन्मूलन में SHGs द्वारा निभाई जा रही भूमिका को स्पष्ट कीजिए। SHG-बैंक लिंकेज कार्यक्रम की कमियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके निष्पादन में सुधार लाने हेतु कुछ सुझाव दीजिए।

SHGs are voluntary associations comprising of self-governed, peer-controlled informal group of people, with common socio economic background and similar goals.

Role of SHGs in Poverty Alleviation

1) promoted financial inclusion and literacy of the unbanked sections

2) community development through financial awareness, technical assistance.

3) development of village economy (eg → Teluja Village in Jharkhand by SHGs through support of PRADHAN foundation)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4) empowerment of vulnerable sections like women. Today 46 mn women in India benefit from SHG. networks.
(eg → Kudumbashree in Kerala)

5) social upliftment - by improving child nutrition, health, benefiting demographic dividend

Shortcomings of SHG - Bank Linkage

1) less than average loan size
2) unequal access based on region (more in South than North India)
3) lack of support from SHG federations
4) Rising NPAs of SHGs in Banks
5) lack of adequate financial capacity, knowledge to sustain in long run
6) issues in coordination
7) lack of adequate entrepreneurial support from industry.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Suggestions to improve

1) Implementing government schemes through SHGs
2) Rural Department should promote awareness drives about SHGs.
3) Structural support through handholding by SHG Promoting institutions
4) promote digital literacy among SHGs
5) adopt Kudumbashree model of Kerala all across India.

SHGs from an important pillar in providing for inclusive growth in India. In this regard, measures need to be taken to sustain their good performance.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Despite initiatives taken by the government in recent years to address the challenges of the Indian higher education system, many reforms are still required to improve its quality and enhance its relevance. Analyse.

(250 words) 15

भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली की चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए विगत वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा की गई पहलों के बावजूद, इसकी गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने और इसकी प्रासंगिकता बढ़ाने हेतु अभी भी कई सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Higher Education is a key to unlock India's demographic dividend and a necessity in today's knowledge economy.

Present status

→ Gross enrolment ratio = 25.2%

→ Government Expenditure ⇒ 1.4% of GDP

→ none of the Indian universities in Top 200 of THE's World Ranking

Government initiatives

1) EQUIP (Enhancing Quality Upgradation & Improvement) in Higher Education.

2) RISE (Revitalising Infrastructure & Systems in Education) + HEFA

3) Institutions of Eminence.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4) NIRF Ranking

5) UGC's learning outcome based framework

Challenges of Higher Education Sector

1) Fragmentation: 40% colleges teach only one course.

2) lack of adequate infrastructure, teacher training

3) increasing gap between education and employability

4) lack of adequate research capabilities

5) restrictive space for students, no option to explore newer fields

6) lack of transparency in governance leading to creation of bogus colleges

7) expensive education (eg- Medical colleges)

8) lack of sufficient autonomy for teachers to work and innovate

9) lack of adequate funding

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Reforms required

1) governance: streamline functing of multiple-bodies like UGC, AICTE, etc.

2) Curriculum Reform: focus on employability

3) teacher training: compulsory performance upgradation programme at regular intervals

4) focus on vocational education (eg → Chattisgarh's Livelihood colleges)

5) digital education – MOOCs and open school learning should be promoted to increase access.

There is urgent need of reform in India's Higher Education Sector. This is recognised by the Draft Education Policy (2019). It calls for recampling the institution architecture, more liberal education, creation of a National Research Foundation and a reformed Accreditation Process.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. Giving an account of the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, mention the challenges that it faces in achieving its target. How can the implementation of the programme be fast-tracked? **(250 words) 15**

प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के अंतर्गत हुई प्रगति का विवरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए, अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में इस योजना के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए। इस कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन को किस प्रकार त्वरित किया जा सकता है?

PM Awas Yojana is aimed at providing "Housing for All" by 2022.

PMAY has two components.

PMAY
- PMAY-Gramin
- PMAY-Urban

Progress made

→ The halfway mark has been reached in providing housing infrastructure.

→ emphasis has been made on use of local resources.

→ employment generation for locals

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges

1) lack of adequate funding
2) inefficiencies in monitoring mechanism
3) deficiencies in local bodies especially ULBs in implementation
4) lack of adequate skilled labour

Measures Required

1) creation of National Dashboard to track progress
2) creation of a digital App - to monitor entire process - from fund dispersal to asset creation
3) skill development in construction
4) improve urban financing.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Housing is one of the critical requirements for a sustainable livelihood. PMAY is aimed at fulfilling this promise. Thus, implementation challenges of PMAY need to be addressed to meet this promise.

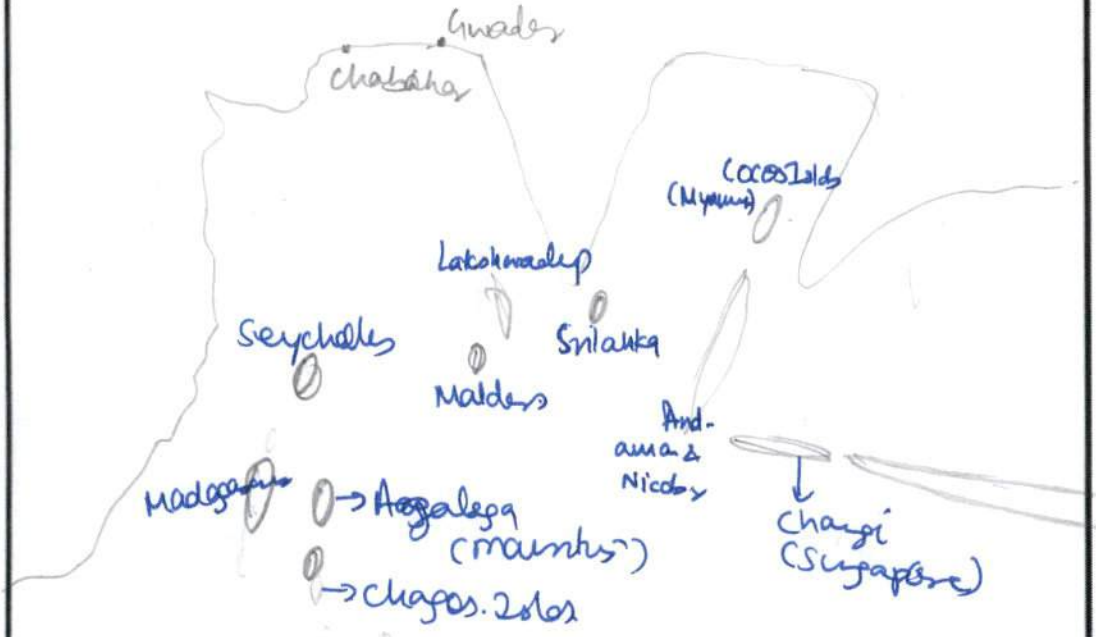
Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. Island nations of the Indian Ocean hold immense strategic value in shaping the geopolitical contours of the region and ensuring maritime security of India. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

हिंद महासागर के द्वीपीय राष्ट्र इस क्षेत्र की भू-राजनीतिक रूप-रेखा को आकार देने और भारत की समुद्री सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में अत्यधिक रणनीतिक महत्व रखते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian Ocean in the recent times has emerged as the centre of the maritime cooperation among nations in the Indo-Pacific space.

INDIAN OCEAN REGION



Importance of IOR

1) Economic Potential:

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- accounts > 90% of India's trade
- source for > 30% of oil & gas resources
- freedom of navigation necessary for free exports and imports

2) Strategic value:

- role of India as net security provider
- India as centre of Indo-Pacific as regarded by USA
- to counter China's clout in the region
- extension of India's Act East Policy.

3) Security value:

- protect important sea lines of communication
- address concerns of piracy
- protect important ports and other ocean assets

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Steps taken by India

1) separate Indo-Pacific Division
2) SAGAR Approach
3) Project Mausam
4) Port Development → Agalega (Mauritius), Duqm (Oman), Chabahar (Iran)
5) Strategic grouping like QUAD, JAI
6) Maritime exercises like MILAN
7) Military deterrence (INS-Arihant)

Thus, India vision of the IOR and the larger Indo Pacific is guided by the SSS given at the Shangri-La Dialogue. These are Sammay, Samvad, Sahyog, Shanti and Samridhi.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. Development assistance, a key instrument in India's foreign policy, has seen a considerable expansion in the past few years both in its scope and reach. Elucidate. **(250 words) 15**

भारतीय विदेश नीति के एक प्रमुख साधन के रूप में 'विकास सहायता' के दायरे और पहुँच दोनों में विगत कुछ वर्षों में काफ़ी विस्तार देखा गया है। सविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Development assistance of India forms a key pillar in expanding India's soft power across the world.

Increased Reach of Assistance

1) Neighbours
- ↳ Afghanistan (Parliament, Salma Dam)
- ↳ Bangladesh
- ↳ Nepal
- ↳ Bhutan
- ↳ Sri Lanka

2) Africa (PAN Africa Initiative, Team 9, ITEC)

3) Latin America (ITEC, HRD)

4) Central Asia

5) Pacific Islands states

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Increased scope

1) Humanitarian Assistance
(eg - Tsunamic HADR 2004)

2) Development of institutions
(eg Afghan Parliament)

3) Enhancing connectivity
(eg → INSTC, Rosary Delaram highway, TAPI project)

4) Security Assistance
(eg → After church blasts in Srilanka)

5) Health sector (eg generic medicines in Africa)

6) Education (scholarships for students from Africa, Central Asia)

Challenges to Development Assistance

1) Rising claim of China
(eg BRI project)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) fund crunch in Ministry of External Affairs

3) lack of timely completion of projects
(eg - India Myanmar-thailand Trilateral Highways)

4) Internal dispute, conflicts among partner countries, creates threats for India's assets there
(eg → Africa, Afghanistan).

Thus, development assistance of India is important not only for enhancing India's world position but also to promote South-South cooperation. For sustaining this, India needs to address the systemic challenges it faces.

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG.	Registration Number	36473
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INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
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20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Discuss the need of an Independent Fiscal Council (IFC) in bringing about transparency and accountability in fiscal processes in India. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में राजकोषीय प्रक्रियाओं में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही का समावेश करने हेतु एक स्वतंत्र राजकोषीय परिषद (IFC) की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently the head of the 15th finance Commission, N.K. Singh recommended an independent body for fiscal prudence called Independent fiscal Council (IFC).

Need of IFC

1) Poor fiscal management due to inaccurate budget estimates - overestimate revenue & underestimate expenditure
2) low tax buoyancy
3) extra-budgetary resources dependence
4) use of creative accounting to roll over fiscal debt.
5) lack of uniform rules for centre & state for fiscal management
6) issue of fiscal populism
7) lack of adequate monitoring mechanism for fiscal management

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Role of IFC in transparency & Accountability

1) provides fiscal forecasts → making government vigilant to follow the set target

2) assessment of budget targets will bring greater transparency in setting of budgets

3) will enhance government's accountability to give explanation regarding breaching fiscal targets

4) will aid continuity in policy of fiscal management for both centre and states

5) will help government incorporate best-practices of fiscal prudence across the world.

Thus, formation of an IFC is a next step to follow the FRBM Act in letter & spirit. It will aid the present financial institutions like the GST Council, finance Commission, etc.

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2. Recognizing the potential of exports in generating employment, a number of steps need to be taken to address India's weakening export competitiveness. Analyze. **(150 words) 10**

रोजगार सृजन हेतु निर्यात क्षेत्र की क्षमताओं की पहचान करते हुए, भारत की कमजोर होती निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धा को संबोधित करने हेतु कई कदम उठाए जाने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Exports are central to India's development strategy. In Niti Aayog's 'Strategy for New India @75', India needs to achieve exports worth $800bn by 2023.

Potential for exports for employment

1) spurs demand for greater production, thus more jobs
2) exports from labour-intensive sectors like textiles, leather, footwear, etc.
3) exports will spur demand for private investment, create a 'virtuous cycle' with employment.

Weakening Export Competitiveness

1) competitiveness is reduced by high logistics costs (14% of GDP), delayed and inadequate credit, etc.

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2) access to western markets not equal to other developing nations like Vietnam as they get more concessions

3) lower quality of exports

4) effects of present phase of protectionism, trade war (eg - US withdrawing GSP for India)

Steps taken

1) MEIS, SEIS
2) Trade Infrastructure for Export scheme
3) Niryat Bandhu scheme
4) Free Trade Agreements like RCEP, etc.

Further steps Required.

1) transform SEZs as Employment & Economic Enclaves (Baba Kalyani Committee)

2) leverage role of EXIM Bank to promote export promotion at grassroots (EXIM's GRID Initiative)

3) greater interest subvention for labour-intensive sectors like clothing, leather, etc.

4) greater access to credit to exports (by reducing leverage ratio)

Thus, exports hold the key to address India's challenge of job creation. For this, a virtuous cycle needs to be created

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3. Highlighting the main features of National Mineral Policy, 2019, discuss how it can help in ensuring sustainable and responsible mining.
(150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 2019 की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि यह संधारणीय और उत्तरदायित्वपूर्ण खनन सुनिश्चित करने में कैसे सहायता कर सकती है।

National Mineral Policy 2019 replaced the 2008 Policy on Minerals on the recommendations of the Rajeswara Rao committee.

Features of NMP 2019

1) establishes mineral corridors to private sector investment
2) proper utilisation of district mineral fund in aid of locals
3) granting infrastructural status to mineral sector.
4) providing for the principle of inter-generational equity
5) creation of exclusive mining areas to promote exploration

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Sustainable, ~~Resp~~ Mining through NMP

1) the principle of inter-generational equity ensures that mining remains environmentally sustainable

2) serves the objective of MMDR Act by ensuring the mining doesn't affect local ecological factors

Responsible Mining & NMP

1) exclusive corridors & areas for mining will ~~the~~ isolate the activity from the densely populated areas

2) promoting private sector involvement will insure better resource utilisation, efficiency

3) use of district mineral fund will ensure that locals too benefit

Thus, the National Policy on Minerals is aimed at changing the shaping of mineral sector with changing times — to ensure sustainable development and sustain India as the fastest growing economy.

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4. Highlighting the salient features of the PM JI-VAN Yojana, analyze how it can assist in achieving the vision and goals of the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018. **(150 words) 10**

"प्रधानमंत्री जी-वन योजना" की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, विश्लेषण कीजिए कि यह जैव ईंधन राष्ट्रीय नीति, 2018 की दृष्टि और लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में किस प्रकार सहायक हो सकती है।

Recently, the PM-JIVAN Yojana was launched to give fillip to the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme (EBP) and the new National Policy on Biofuels.

Features of PM-JIVAN

1) provides financial support to integrated ethanol fuel blending projects
2) provides for viability gap funding of Rs6000 cr to specific blending projects
3) mandatory procurement by Oil Marketing companies to promote the EBP programme
4) enhance supply chain mechanisms for biofuels like biodesel etc.

PM-JIVAN Yojana & Biofuel Policy's VISION

1) promotes reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

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2) will help India achieve its climate-change commitments (NDCs)
3) aid in import dependence on crude oil
4) alternative for farmer incomes
5) reduces farm wastage

Assistance to objectives of Biofuel Policy

1) gives assistance in developing 1G biofuel plants based on bioethanol
2) promotes 2G biofuel development through viability gap funding of Rs 6000 cr in next 5 years
3) provides backward & forward linkages for developing biodesel plants - by an integrated supply chain mechanism
4) allows use of variety of farm produce include sugar-based like sugar beet, etc. for biofuel produce.

Thus, by adding to the vision of National Biofuel Policy, the PM JIVAN Yojana aids India in achieving its SDG 7 of providing affordable, reliable & sustainable energy.

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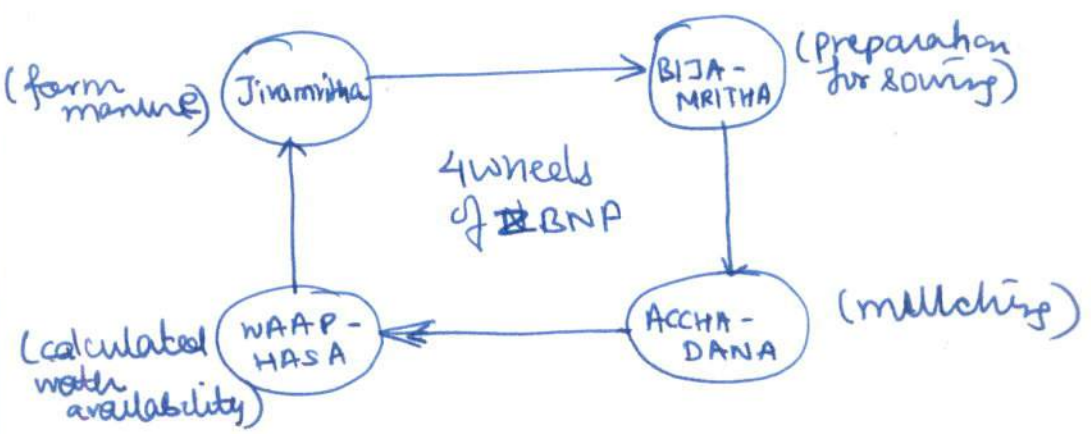
5. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) provides an alternative to capital and chemical intensive agriculture currently being practiced in India. Analyze. **(150 words) 10**

जीरो बजट प्राकृतिक कृषि (ZBNF), भारत में वर्तमान समय में प्रचलित पूंजी और रसायन गहन कृषि का एक विकल्प प्रदान करती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Zero Budget Natural farming (ZBNF) is a novel method of farming which uses only natural products for cultivation, rather than introducing external products like pesticides, chemicals, etc. It is a type of "back to the basics" farming.



Present nature of agriculture

→ capital intensive but low productivity

→ chemical intensive leading to increased need of water, thus salinisation and reduced soil fertility

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ZBNF as an alternative

1) uses only natural, on-farm available inputs, thus reduces input costs
2) Reduced cost of farming provides an alternative to reduce farm distress
3) natural, chemical-free inputs require less water, thus saves water
4) promotes more sustainable agriculture as it adds to soil fertility
5) makes agriculture more climate-resilient

Issues with ZBNF

→ not free from all inputs, bare minimum always required
→ initially lower yields
→ may not work efficiently for all areas
→ doesn't address issues like agriculture marketing

Way forward: Nevertheless, ZBNF offers an alternative to contributed to sustainable agriculture and development. States should take leads from Andhra Pradesh, a pioneer in ZBNF.

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6. Marine life is facing 'irreparable damage' from the millions of tonnes of plastic waste which ends up in the oceans each year. In this context, examine the implications of plastic pollution on marine ecosystem and suggest some measures for addressing this problem. **(150 words) 10**

समुद्री जीवन, प्रति वर्ष समुद्र में पहुँचने वाले लाखों टन प्लास्टिक कचरे के कारण 'अपूरणीय क्षति' का सामना कर रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए और इस समस्या के समाधान हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

Oceans which observe 90% of earth's warming (CO_2) are becoming dumping grounds of plastic (13mn tonnes per year)
(eg ⇒ Great Pacific Garbage Patch)

Implications of Plastic Pollution

1) endangers marine life due to chances of ingestion, bioaccumulation of hazardous substances
2) adverse effect on health - due to possibility of vector borne diseases
3) disturbs sensitive ecosystems like coral reefs, marshes, sea grasses, kelps, etc.
4) contributes to annual financial loss of $13bn

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Measures Required

1) ensuring coastal areas are clean, plastic-free through integrated coastal zone management
(eg→ FEEE's Blue Beaches Certification)

2) increasing public awareness about plastic pollution through campaigns like UN's Clean Seas Campaign

3) countries should pledge to phase out single use plastic as pledged by India

4) use of technology to clean marine debris & plastic waste (eg- Present initiative to clean Great Pacific garbage patch)

5) promote alternative use of plastic waste (eg- Himachal Pradesh → in road construction)

6) promote alternatives to plastic bags (eg Jute bags)

Thus, plastic pollution is an emergency global menace and countries should collaborate to tackle this challenge at the earliest.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. Write a short note on the evolution of Bharat Stage norms in India. Also discuss the significance and challenges posed by the planned introduction of BS-VI norms in India from the year 2020. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में भारत स्टेज मानकों के विकास पर एक संक्षिप्त टिप्पणी लिखिए। साथ ही, वर्ष 2020 से भारत में BS-VI मानकों को योजनाबद्ध रूप से लागू किए जाने के महत्व और उसमें आने वाली चुनौतियों की भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Bharat Stage norms (BS norms) are aimed at regulating the emission of pollutants from combustion engines including vehicular emissions.

Evolution of BS norms

1) first proposed in 1996, based on 'Euro' norms
2) over the years BS-I, II, III norms were followed
3) BS-III norms were replaced by BS-IV norms in all Indian cities from 2017
4) Centre has decided to bypass BS V and shift to BS VI directly from April 2020
5) Delhi has become the first Indian city to adopt BS VI norms (from 2018)

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Significance

1) reduce pollutants: NO_x by 70%, also reduces SO_x and suspended particulate matter

2) will help India achieve its climate change (NDCs) commitments

3) use of cleaner fuels will help India reduce ~~its~~ dependence on polluting imported crude oil

4) will prevent economic losses due to poor health affects of pollution

Challenges

1) industry not ready - small bonnet cars in India cannot adopt newer paticulate filter

2) more time needed - average 4 years

3) 'Euro' - based norms not suitable for Indian driving conditions

4) increased cost for carbuyers

5) not a solution for increased vehicular density

Nevertheless, BS VI norms is a step forward for India to provide clean, sustainable & reliable energy (SDG).

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. What are black holes? Highlight the challenges in imaging a black hole? How were these challenges overcome by the Event Horizon Telescope project? **(150 words) 10**

ब्लैक होल क्या हैं? ब्लैक होल के चित्रण (इमेजिंग) में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इवेंट होराइज़न टेलीस्कोप प्रोजेक्ट द्वारा इन चुनौतियों को कैसे दूर किया गया?

Black Holes are objects in space which have intensive gravity at the centre. They were theorised by Albert Einstein

Features

1) formed after the death of a star.
2) have ~~sinfu~~ infinitely large gravity concentrated at a unit point with infinitely small volume and high density
3) nothing can escape a black hole, not even light

Challenges in imaging

1) difficult to detect as it ~~abs~~ absorbs everything even light

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) the space phenomenon lies beyond our galaxy, difficult to detect

3) no previous evidences, was only based on theoretical assumptions

Role of Event Horizon Telescope

1) became first to detect ~~exo~~ a Black Hole

2) instead of detecting the black hole, it detected the 'last photon', the illuminated rip outside it which has all types of radiation.

3) use of concentrated telescope placed at various continents to form a definitive, concentrated, focused image.

Thus, detection of a Black Hole has opened newer frontiers for the World to explore the origin of the Earth and the force of gravity.

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9. While mentioning the objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), discuss the challenges which are hindering the utilization of the ATT to its full potential. **(150 words) 10**

शस्त्र व्यापार संधि (ATT) के उद्देश्यों का उल्लेख करते हुए, उन चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए जो ATT को इसकी पूर्ण क्षमता से उपयोगित किये जाने में बाधक हैं।

The Arms Trade treaty (ATT) is a multilateral arms control treaty which came into force in 2014.

Objectives of ATT

1) place export controls for member countries

2) prevent illegal trade, transfer of conventional weapons

3) prevent use of conventional weapons in wars or by terrorist organisations.

Challenges in its utilisation

1) prominent members like US, India not part of ATT

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2) continued practice of state-sponsored terrorism by some state actors which reduces spirit of ATT

3) doesn't prevent the ~~practice~~ possibility of nuclear terrorism

Thus, the ATT though ~~was~~ good in spirit, needs to be reinvigorated to address the emerging global challenge of transnational terrorism.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. Threats to internal security of India may be posed both through the communication networks and also to the networks. Discuss. Also, highlight the steps taken by the government in making the networks more secure.
(150 words) 10

भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा को खतरा संचार नेटवर्कों के माध्यम से एवं स्वयं संचार नेटवर्कों को खतरा होने, दोनों ही प्रकार से हो सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, नेटवर्कों को अधिक सुरक्षित बनाने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Since the time of globalisation, a communication revolution based on ICT & Internet has aided in global prosperity. But it has also opened newer challenges to internal security.

Challenge through Communication Networks

1) use of social media for radicalisation by terror outfits
2) danger of cyber warfare, espionage, sabotage
3) emerging challenge of ransome-ware by use of system vulnerabilities & new technologies (Bitcoin).

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Challenge to Networks

1) lack of safeguards leading to malware attacks (viruses, trojans, etc)

2) anonymity - leading to difficult detection of attacks

3) threat to country's critical information infrastructure

4) use of impact devices, flow of data across borders → misuse of data.

Steps taken

1) Cyber Defence Command under Defence Ministry
2) National Cyberspace Policy, IT Act
3) Draft Data Protection Law
4) CERT-In, CERT-NIC, Cyber Swachhata Kendras
5) I4C.
6) Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative

Given that India will emerge as a digital economy ($1 trn by 2025) in near future, address network vulnerabilities is utmost essential today.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. Highlight the importance and challenges related to integration of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) in India. Mention some steps that can be taken for its smooth integration with the synchronized Indian grid. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में परिवर्तनीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (VRE) के एकीकरण के महत्व और इससे संबंधित चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। ऐसे कुछ कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए जो समक्रमिक (सिंक्रनाइज्ड) भारतीय ग्रिड के साथ इसके सहज एकीकरण के लिए उठाए जा सकते हैं।

Variable Renewable energy (VRE)

is a sub-type of Renewable energy which is not uninterrupted and prone to temporary inaccessibility.

These include solar & wind energy and are different from fixed Renewable energy like biopower & hydroenergy which provide 24x7 energy supply.

Importance of integration

1) will address supply shortcomings arising due to vulnerability in access (eg → solar-wind integration, solar energy when no windpower & vice versa).

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2) reduce dependence of thermal power plants

3) reduce GHG emissions, promote climate change mitigation & adaptation

4) reduce dependency on crude oil imports.

Challenges in integration

1) Institutional issues of delays in land acquisition.

2) lack of adequate funding as such projects can be large scaled

3) rising debts of DISCOMs

4) lack of linkages to connect to distribution & transmission networks

3) possibility of cost escalation

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Steps Required

1) finalising a VRE integration policy (eg- Proposed Draft Solar Wind Policy)
2) mandatory Renewable Purchase Obligations with VRE component for DISCOMs
3) Human Resource Development in VRE through Skill India Mission.
4) access to adequate funding through innovative finance tools like Green Bonds, etc.
5) promote e-auction of VRE plant projects

Thus, VRE projects are a step forward in ensuring sustainable access to Renewable Energy 24X7. It will benefit India to have access to affordable & ~~energy~~ reliable energy.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. There have been arguments that India could fall into a 'middle income trap'. Explaining the phenomenon, highlight the reasons behind such arguments. How can India avoid it? **(250 words) 15**

ऐसे तर्क दिए गए हैं कि भारत 'मध्यम आय पाश' में फंस सकता है। इस परिघटना की व्याख्या करते हुए, ऐसे तर्कों के लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। भारत इससे किस प्रकार बच सकता है?

Middle Income trap (MIT) is a phenomenon wherein a developing country moves to the middle income states but gets stuck there. First proposed by World Bank in 2007.

Phenomenona

1) faster economic growth pushes country to middle income status

2) such nation now faces competition from highly innovative developed country & low-expenditure oriented lesser developed ones

3) faces stagnation in growth, not able to rise to higher income states

4) observed in Africa (South Africa), Latin America (Brazil) & Asia (Malaysia), etc.

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Reasons

1) economy is not able to shift gears to more advanced growth strategy
2) increased income disparities, resulting in stagnancy of middle class.
3) recurring boom-bust cycles.

India's vulnerabilities for MIT

1) skewed growth of manufacturing sector, not played significant role in India's economic growth.
2) increase cost of skilling due to emergence of newer technologies like IOT, Artificial Intelligence.
3) stagnancy in Agriculture, affected by climate change
4) increasing economic inequalities (75% wealth with Top 10% Indians)
5) lower private investment, exacerbated the twin ~~BS~~ Balance Sheet Problem.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Avoiding the MIT

1) promote greater specialisation in production (greater focus on labour-intensive sectors like textiles)

2) promote greater mobility of highly-skilled labour, revive professional sectors

3) increase output productivity (reduce ICOR value)

4) improve social indicators for inclusive growth (like Health / Education)

5) boost private investment (achieve 36% by 2023) by better fiscal management - reducing crowding out effect.

Thus, though Middle Income trap remain a distinct possibility, India should address emerging challenges to achieve the target of a $5trn economy in 5years.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. Highlighting its importance, discuss the major issues that plague effective monetary policy transmission in India. Also, mention the steps taken by RBI to improve it. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में मौद्रिक नीति संचरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उन प्रमुख मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए जो इसकी प्रभाविता को बाधित करते हैं। साथ ही, इसमें सुधार के लिए RBI द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Monetary Policy Transmission (MPT) is a practice wherein the central bank's monetary policy signals are passed onto the financial sector & households.

Importance of MPT

1) helps RBI achieve its monetary policy targets (inflation targeting)
2) maintains fiscal health.
3) brings policy certainty
4) maintain credibility for foreign investors
5) maintain lower levels of inflations.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Issues plaguing MPT in India

1) Slow, laggard MPT in India

2) Rate Hikes are transmitted immediately but rate cuts' transmission is slow

3) **Causes**:

↳ Double financial repression (due to SLR & Cash Reserve)

↳ Rising NPAs in Banking sector

↳ inefficiency in present rate determination system

↳ overdependence on banks (reduce their dependence on repo rate)

Steps taken by RBI

1) introduction of MCLR to replace Base Rate Determination of lending rate

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) recently it has moved to external benchmark lendy rate (eg - to repo rate)

3) Rupee - Dollar forex swap to reduce interest rate by increased rupee influx in banks

4) NPA reduction strategies - Prompt Corrective Action, etc.

5) Reviving the NBFC sector by providing Partial Credit Enhancement to ND-SI-NBFCs.

Thus, MPT is necessary for RBI for ensuring effectiveness in the working of its monetary policy.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. Highlight the constraints faced by rainfed agriculture in India. Discuss some agronomic practices that can be adopted for stabilizing agricultural production in rainfed areas. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में वर्षा सिंचित कृषि में आने वाली बाधाओं पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्षा सिंचित क्षेत्रों में कृषि उत्पादन को स्थायित्व प्रदान करने हेतु अपनाई जा सकने वाली कुछ कृषि-वैज्ञानिक पद्धतियों की चर्चा कीजिए।

Rainfed Agriculture is the practice of depending on rain for cultivation and is marked by lack of adequate irrigation facilities.

States in India

↳ >61% cultivation is rainfed

↳ >50% farmers depend on rain

Importance of rainfed agriculture

↳ contributes 40% rice cultivation in India.

↳ 88% of pulses

↳ >50% cattle livestock.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Constraints faced

1) defencies in government policies
   ↳ focus on HYV seeds - water intensive
   ↳ lack of adequate focus on rainfed areas
   ~~↳ poor aid~~
2) poor infrastructural support
3) greater, recurrent vagaries of nature like drought
4) important, ~~cor~~ profit generating cash crops like sugarcane, rice, etc. not suitable
5) lower productivity as compared to irrigated areas
6) increased farmer indebtness in such regions

Steps taken

1) PM Krishi Sinchaee Yojana
2) National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, etc.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Agronomic Practices Required

1) promotion of agro-climatic zonations through GIS mapping

2) promotion of ~~micro~~ micro irrigation facilities, drip irrigation.

3) promote soil health management through mulching & use of geo-textiles

4) use of ICT/ Apps to give weather forecasts, promote farm production about sustainable agriculture practices

5) promotion of allied sectors (livestock) as alternative source of income

Thus, since rainfed agriculture contributes significant proportion to India's food security, promoting sustainable agriculture in such regions is most necessary.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Despite the steps taken by the government in recent years, a number of problems continue to persist in the urea sector in India. Discuss. What reforms should be taken to address the persisting problems?

(250 words) 15

हाल के वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों के बावजूद, भारत में यूरिया क्षेत्र में कई समस्याएं निरंतर बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। मौजूदा समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु क्या सुधार किए जाने चाहिए?

The urea sector has emerged as an significant linkage in fertiliser input sector since the Green Revolution.

Steps taken

1) urea based subsidy scheme
2) use of Neem-coated urea
   ↳ for soil health
   ↳ prevent diversion of urea produce.

Persisting Problems

1) continued leakages in urea sector.
2) poor targeting, diversion to richer farmers

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) unsustainable & over use of urea in farming → reduce soil fertility

4) issues of urea accessibility to small, marginal farmers

Reforms Required

1) use of DBT in fertiliser subsidy

2) end to end computerisation of urea sector value chain

3) link urea scheme to the Potash-Potassium subsidy scheme

4) create monitoring mechanisms in state agricultural departments to prevent leakages

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Thus, ensuring the functioning of a transparent wheat sector is essential for ensuring sustainable agriculture.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. What is Access and Benefit Sharing? Explain how it aids in sustainable use of biodiversity. Also, mention the different global and national level mechanisms for ensuring Access and Benefit Sharing. **(250 words) 15**

पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण (एक्सेस एंड बेनिफिट शेयरिंग) क्या है? यह जैव विविधता के संधारणीय उपयोग में किस प्रकार सहायक है, स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण सुनिश्चित करने हेतु वैश्विक और राष्ट्रीय स्तर की विभिन्न प्रणालियों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS)

is a practise of biodiversity ~~conservation~~ conservation which ensures that the benefits of ~~biodi~~ traditional biodiversity knowledge benefits not only the corporate houses but also the owners of such knowledge.

ABS & sustainable biodiversity use

1) ensures that bearers of traditional knowledge get benefit & enjoy control over their knowledge

2) prevents misuse / unsustainable use of biodiversity for commercial purposes

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) prevent unauthorised access & use of biodiversity

Global mechanisms for ABS.

1) Convention of Bio Diversity (CBD) which promotes sustainable use of biodiversity resources through. ABS

2) Nagoya Protocol - sets Aichi Targets for ABS

3) The New Deal for Nature Initiative at the recent CBD Sharam-El sheikh Influence: promotes conserving cultural biodiverse heritage

National Mechanisms for ABS

1) Biodiversity Act:

provides for a three tier mechanism.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

↳ National Biodiversity Authority

- prevents foreign use of IPRs of biodiversity

↳ State Biodiversity Authority

- regulates use of biodiversity for commercial purpose.

↳ Biodiversity Management Committees at local level

- maintain a Biodiversity Register
- ensure ABS principle at grassroot level

2) National Reports for maintaining compliance to Aichi targets.

3) Geographical Indication Act

Thus, biodiversity conservation along with sustainable use which is beneficial for all forms the foundation of the ABS mechanism

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Stating the significance, discuss the challenges in achieving disaster resilience of infrastructure. Suggest some ways for mainstreaming it in the development paradigm. **(250 words) 15**

अवसंरचनाओं का आपदाओं के प्रति सुनम्य (रेजिलिएंट) होने के महत्व को स्पष्ट करते हुए, इससे संबंधित चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए। इसे विकास प्रतिमान की मुख्यधारा में लाने हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

Disaster Resilience refers to in Infrastructure

the practice of making infrastructure which has the ability to withstand disaster and hazards.

Significance

1) necessary for disaster preparedness & mitigation

2) reduces human, property & economic losses

3) promote development that is sustainable

Challenges

1) lack of adequate finance for better construction.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) inadequate monitoring of earthquake standards

3) proliferation of slums and unauthorised colonies

4) overpopulated cities due to migration

5) inadequate capacities of local bodies to provide capabilities for disaster resilience

6) lack of awareness about disaster resilience.

Suggested ways

1) creation of an updated code for infrastructure earthquake & monitoring & compliance mechanism

2) rehabilitation for slum dwellers

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) use of CSR to finance disaster resilient infrastructure

4) seismographic mapping & vulnerability analysis before infrastructure development

India has emerged at the forefront of disaster resilience with the the National Disaster Management Plan and the formation of the Coalition of Disaster Resilience. It should continue its efforts to ~~use~~ keep pace with the Sendai Framework.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. Highlighting the significance of data localization for India, discuss various challenges associated with data localization. **(250 words) 15**

भारत के लिए डेटा के स्थानीयकरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, डेटा के स्थानीयकरण से जुड़ी विभिन्न चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए।

Data localisation is a practice to prevent the flow of data outside national borders, ensuring that data is processed and stored within the country.

Recent steps by India

1) RBI data localisation norms for international payment operators
2) Srikrishna Report
3) National digital communication policy (Data as 'national good')
4) Data Information security for Health Records.

Significance of data localisation

1) provides economic growth potential:

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- as data is the new oil
- India can emerge as the one of the largest data centre markets
- utilise data for disruptive technologies like Big Data, IoT, etc.

2) increase tax revenue –
as most global players evaded tax liabilities due to absence of local base

3) promotes national security – access to information for law enforcement agencies

4) maintains Data Privacy, prevents Data Colonisation.

Challenges

1) will disrupts benefits of free data flow to the IT-BPM sector of India.

2) does not address the possibility of erosion of privacy due to state surveillance.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) lack of adequate cyber security standards increase vulnerabilities for data centres

4) law & order may not fully benefit as they will not have access to encrypted data.

5) will further promote protectionist trends and lead to other countries to go for similar policies

Way forward

1) Data ~~colonisa~~ localisation is essential for India to emerge as a knowledge economy.

2) for this, India must enhance its standards of cyber security and data protection and privacy.

3) India should cooperate with other countries to provide for cross border information sharing for investigative purposes (eg USA's CLOUD Act).

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. Money Laundering as a socio economic offence is a menace especially for developing countries like India. Comment. What measures have been taken at the domestic and international levels to deal with this menace?

(250 words) 15

एक सामाजिक आर्थिक अपराध के रूप में धन शोधन विशेषकर भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों के लिए एक खतरा है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस खतरे से निपटने हेतु घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर क्या उपाय किए गए हैं?

Money laundering is the practice of giving illegitimate money the facade of having originated from lawful sources.

Money laundery as an economic offence

1) contributes to macroeconomic instability due to frequent foreign capital outflows

2) reduces government's control over its monetary policy

3) reduces tax revenue & tax base

4) leads to diversion of expenditure to non productive sectors (realestate / jewellery etc.)

As a social offence

1) leads to diversion of resources away from the poores

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) leads to welfare losses due to reduced fiscal space for government

3) exacerbate wealth inequalities

4) fuels activities like terrorism & insurgency leading to social turmoil and violence.

Domestic Measures

1) Institutional

- RBI, SEBI → KYC norms
- ED
- FIU - IND
- Terror finance cell in NIA

2) legal

- PMLA
- Benami Transaction Act
- Fugitive Economic Offenders Act
- Black Money Act

3) Administrative / Policy measures

- Demonetisation
- promotion of digital/cashless economy
- Project Insight
- PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, Income Declaration Scheme
- Revising DTAAs with Singapore, Cyprus, etc.

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International Measures

1) G20's Base Erosion & Profit Shifting (BEPS) norms
2) UN conventions against corruption, transnational organised crime etc.
3) OECD's Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) mechanism)
4) FATF
5) US' FATCA law

Way forward

1) India should establish a Trade transparency unit
2) implement FATF recommendations:
   - ↳ storage of transaction information for 5 years
   - ↳ nodal agency for Anti Money Laundering Policy.
3) Greater coordination among agencies

Thus, money laundering needs to be tackled on a war footing, given that it is an emerging global challenge.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. The primary motive of terrorism differs from that of organised crime but there exists a symbiotic relationship between the two. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

आतंकवाद का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य संगठित अपराध के उद्देश्य से भिन्न होता है, किन्तु दोनों के मध्य एक सहजीवी संबंध पाया जाता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Terrorism is a practice of use of violence for political motives. Organised crime is an unlawful activity by a syndicate for pecuniary and other benefits.

Terrorism	Organised crime
1) aimed at achieving political objectives - displacing the government in power	1) has primarily economic motive - prefers a parallel government
2) works against the prevalent ruler	2) can/may work in collaboration with the ruler

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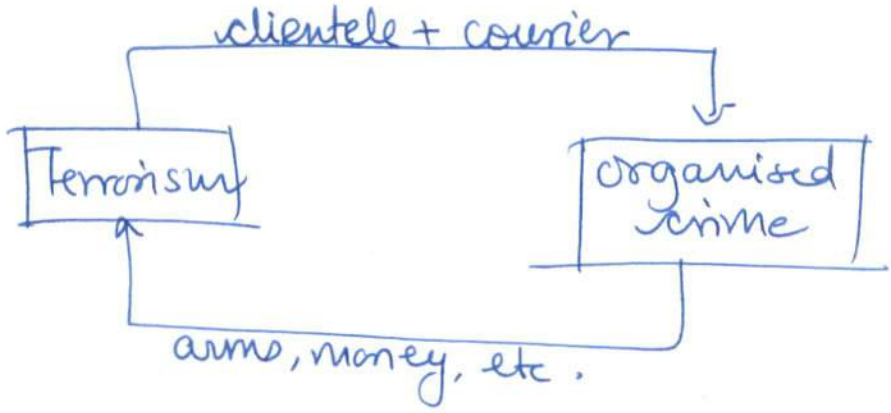
Symbiotic Relationship



1) Both operate in similar conditions of poor law & order, weak governmental control and weak border security.

2) Linkages between the two:
- ↳ human trafficking
- ↳ drug trafficking
- ↳ use of counterfeit currency
- ↳ smuggling

3) North East Insurgency: Insurgent groups use channels of organised crime like extortion, drug trafficking, smuggling, black marketing, etc.

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4) Jammu & Kashmir: unrest has been promoted by use of hawla network & drug trafficking networks.

Way forward

1) transnational & regional cooperation
↳ establish SAARC Regional centre against transnational organised crime.
2) establish a National Coordination Agency for organised crime & terrorism
3) increased sensitisation of police
4) better border management by use of technology (eg CIBMS, BOLD-QIT, etc)
5) promote strong intelligence networks.

Thus, though different terrorism & organised crime serve & aid each other. Thus, a coordinated response is required to tackle the two.

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INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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3	10	
4	10	
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12	15	
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14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Mention the structure and functions of NITI Aayog. Also, comment on its contemporary relevance. **(150 words) 10**

Niti Aayog serves as the premier think tank for the government of India. It is a non-constitutional, non-statutory body which replaced the erstwhile Planning Commission of India.

Structure of Niti Aayog

PM = chairman

↓

Governing Council = Union Ministers, State government Heads ↔ vice-chairman & CEO

↓

Regional Council = specific issue based, Union + State representation

↓

Expert Bodies, Research Wings

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Functions

1) Primary Objective = "shared vision of national development goals with active cooperation of states."

2) Guiding Principles:

- village
- inclusion
- governance
- demographic dividend
- people participation
- antyodaya
- sustainability

Continued Relevance

1) Pillar of Cooperative federalism

2) Competitive federalism (eg → Health Progressing States Index Report)

3) Accountability (eg Development Evaluation & Monitoring office)

4) Research and innovation (eg AI, Renewable energy)

5) Platform to discuss collective concerns

Thus, Niti Aayog is the premier platform for Centre-State Cooperation. By some minimum fund disposal, greater stakeholder involvement, Niti Aayog 2-0 can be further augmented.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. Critically discuss the practice of setting up Fast Track Courts to reduce pendency of cases in the judiciary. **(150 words) 10**

fast track courts (FTCs) are special courts constituted to reduce pendency of cases at the level of district and subordinate courts. In the recent times, the 14th Finance Commission called for formation of more FTCs at cost of Rs 4100 cr.

Need of FTCs

- fast track disposal of cases
- to reduce pendency, arrears in courts
- lower burden to increasing cases on the judiciary
- to deal with sensitive cases on priority basis (eg → Jessica Lal Murder case)

Issues with FTCs

- Rising Pendency of cases

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- lack of adequate infrastructure, absence of proper video/voice conferencing
- shortage of funds, especially since State governments have been given primary responsibility
- increasing workload of cases
- no special mechanism to fast track cases, functioning is same as ordinary courts

Measures Required

- increase state governments' awareness to contribute to FTCs
- creation of proper structure of judiciary especially FTCs. SC states that FTCs should be either abolished or made permanent
- special guidelines to create fast track procedure
- reforms in investigation

Thus, FTCs need to be reformed as they are key to speedy justice, a fundamental right under Art-21 of the Constitution.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. Highlight the challenges faced by lower judiciary in India and suggest measures for enhancing their productivity. **(150 words) 10**

The lower judiciary - district and subordinate courts - form the foundation of the Indian judicial system. These are responsible for adjudicating the base bones of the law at the ground level.

Challenges for lower judiciary

1) Rising pendency of cases : Out of 3.5 crore pending cases, 87.5% are in subordinate courts.

2) Slow and staggered process of appointment

3) suboptimal levels of investigation

4) lack of adequate infrastructure and finances

5) lack of efficiency in disposing of cases. Economic Survey 2018-19 : needs to be increased by 24.5%.

6) unequal frequencies of disposal and settling of cases (depends on state, case type)

7) Rising vacancies (>25%)

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Measures Required

1) Streamline appointment process with active coordination between Governor, State PSC and the concerned High Court.

2) Appointment of more no. of Judges
- Economic Survey 2018-19: should depend on case type (more in criminal), state (like Bihar - case clearance rate = 55%)

3) Increased spending on infrastructure

4) All India Judicial Service to attract talent

5) Use of ICT to enhance productivity (National Judicial Data Grid)

6) Address specific stages of backlog like 'Evidence' stage and 'Framing of Charges' stage

Right to access to fair and speedy justice is a fundamental right under Art 21. The subordinate is the first level of judiciary to uphold this right.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. Assess the need to formalise the process of post-legislative scrutiny to improve the effectiveness of laws. (150 words) 10

Post-legislative scrutiny is a form of legislative impact assessment. It is aimed at assessing the impact of a given law in multiple ways.

Need of Post-legislative Scrutiny

1) Economic Need: to assess the expenditure incurred in implementing the law

2) Administrative Need: to assess the degree to which administrative machinery needs to be dedicated for its implementation.

3) Social Need: to assess whether the law is in favour or against the larger sections of the society especially the vulnerable sections

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4) Judicial Impact: to assess the impact of law on litigation process given that Indian government is the largest litigant in Indian courts.

Measures Required

1) earmark extra funds to assess post-legislative impact
2) capacity building of public servants to do post-legislative scrutiny
3) involve citizen participation through social audits
4) promotion of collaborative approach by Law Ministry by involving multiple stakeholders
5) Use of ICT platforms like LIMBS, National Judicial Data Grid to coordinate on judicial impact.

Thus, in today's age post-law scrutiny is necessary to shift from output orientation to outcome orientation

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving the effectiveness of e-governance in India. **(150 words) 10**

e-governance involves the application of ICT in governance mechanisms. The purpose is to make governance 'SMART' = Simple, Moral, Accountable, Reliable and transparent.

Artifical Intelligence (A.I.) is a form of machine learning in which machines can takes decisions like humans do.

AI and G2B e gov.

- AI can help predict stock market trends, prevent foreign investment outflow. Thus aiding in monetary policy.
- can help predict and prevent bottlenecks in the ease of doing business.
- efficient transparent allocation of natural resources like coal, iron, etc and spectrum.

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A.I. and G2G egov.

- effective coordination between governmental departments
- preempt delays in policy implementation
- better information management systems

AI and G2C egov

- aids in providing effective service delivery in various sectors like health, education, food, etc.
- creation of a national database by linking key ministries' data sets to citizens' need at ground level.

Way forward

- The recently announced National Mission on Artificial Intelligence can help augment egovernance using A.I.
- However, privacy concerns too should be heed by legislating a proper Data Protection under the Srikrishna Report.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Despite various reforms in the public grievance redressal mechanisms, their effectiveness remain limited. Discuss. (150 words) 10

Public grievance redressal mechanisms (GRMs) are avenues for the citizenry to hold the service provider accountable in case of inadequate delivery of services.

Reforms in GRMs

1) formation of CPGRAMS, mygov.in
2) use of RTI Route
3) Consumer Courts
4) Alternate dispute settlement mechanisms like Lok Adalats, Gram Nyayalas

Limitations of GRMs

1) lack of political and administrative goodwill

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) inadequate allocation of funds for implementation of GRMs

3) lack of awareness among citizenry

4) long pendency of cases

5) lack of ~~monetary~~ punitive action; inadequate monetary compensation.

Measures Required

1) Single Window GRM system for all public services as introduced in Delhi

2) 2nd ARC recommends creation of Public Grievance Officers at lines of PIOs of RTI Act

3) use of citizen charters to enhance awareness about GRMs both in public and department.

Thus, GRMs require urgent reforms as GRMs form one of the last but most important steps in effective, transparent public service delivery.

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7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it.

(150 words) 10

Art 23 of the Indian Constitution provides the fundamental rights against exploitation arising from trafficking to women and children.

Factors contributing to trafficking

1) economic deprivation especially among vulnerable and poor sections like women and children

2) lack of effective governance and enforcement mechanisms : especially in tribal areas which maximum of such cases

3) presence of networks of transnational organised crime

4) lack of education and awareness among victims making gullible to be lured by traffickers

5) areas of insurgency are prone to trafficking as latter generates funds to promote former

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Recent Measures taken

1) Human trafficking (Prohibition and Rehabilitation) Bill 2019:
   - provides for stricter penalties
   - rehabilitation homes for victims

2) UJWALLA scheme to aid women suffering from trafficking

3) Choking networks of money laundering & organised crime which sustain trafficking

4) Protection of Children using PENCIL Portal, amendments to POSCO Act

Way forward

Human trafficking is a threat to society and internal security. Thus, concerted effort is required to eradicate it with active coordination with state and neighbouring countries.

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8. With Vector-Borne Diseases (VBDs) reaching epidemic proportions in India, highlight the factors that have led to their emergence. Also, suggest some measures for their effective control and management. **(150 words) 10**

Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) includes diseases which are communicable and are spread by a vector like a fly, mosquito. These include diseases like dengue, chikungunya, etc.

Status of VBDs in India

- India one of the most affected countries by VBDs.
- VBDs = a new normal in season transitions especially monsoon.

Factors of emergence of VBDs

1) lack of effective drainage system, especially cities, leading to water-logging

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2) reduced level of sanitation and cleanliness especially in slums

3) overcrowdedness

4) more potent in hot and humid weather, which will rise due to global warming

5) lack of proper disposal of wastes and sludge

Measures Required

1) efficient sludge waste management systems (under Swachh Bharat Mission)

2) modernise drainage systems

3) vaccinations against VBDs

4) international cooperation to deal with Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

5) encourage RWAs to go for regular fumigation drives

Thus, by sanitation-based interventions the very root cause of VBDs can be effectively tackled.

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9. After years of neglect, rapidly evolving regional strategic realities are now forcing India and Indonesia to coordinate their policies ever more closely. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

India - Indonesia cooperation arises from the fact that both represents the largest, most dominant players in their respective regions, former in South Asia and latter in South East Asia.

Evolving Regional strategic Realities

1) Rise of China : increased assertion in the South China Sea and through BRI project

2) Uncertainty about USA's Role

3) shifting of global centre of strategic power towards the East in Asia

4) Increased salience of the Indo-Pacific Region as a strategic space

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India - Indonesia Cooperation

1) Historical and cultural ties which date back to ancient times

2) Economic partnership

- Both are large markets for another.

3) Maritime security cooperation & counter-terrorism (Andaman & Nicobar Command, IORA, MILAN Exercise)

4) Strategic Cooperation: in Indo Pacific through ASEAN

5) Connectivity: through air service agreement

6) Soft Power: rising interest of Bollywood in Indonesia.

Way forward: Given that Indonesia is the largest member of the ASEAN, it will always to feature as an important pillar in India's 'Act East Policy'.

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10. Despite several attempts at resetting the ties, various barriers continue to be a cause of concern in the India-Nepal bilateral relations. Discuss.
(150 words) 10

It is said that no two countries share such stronger ties than India and Nepal. Ties are woven not just in history but in culture, society and even family.

Previous Attempts to reset ties

1) Sending Dr. S. Jaishankar as envoy after formulation of new constitution in India.
2) Summit with the coming of power of new political dispensation in Nepal
3) Humanitarian Assistance during Nepal Earthquakes
5) PM Modi visit especially most recently on sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit

Continuing Barriers

1) Perception of "Big Brother" image of India in Nepal

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2) perception in Nepal about India's lack of support to present Maoist led government

3) China factor : linkup of Tibet with Nepal, rail networks

4) territorial disputes (Kalapani)

5) lack of movement ~~of~~ ~~renegia~~ renegotiating the friendship treaty

Way forward

- India needs to effectively use its soft power and goodwill to express its clear ~~attentions~~.

- India should contribute to Nepal's development through mechanisms like Asia Africa Growth Corridor.

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11. Delineate the differences between pressure groups and interest groups. Citing examples, elaborate on the ways in which pressure groups influence government decisions and policy making in India. **(250 words) 15**

Pressure groups are groups of people with common interests who come together to direct public policy and opinion in favour of their objectives. Unlike political parties, they do not aim at occupying political offices.

Pressure Groups	Interest Groups
- focus more on the technique: increasing pressure on government	- action can be more broad based: involving petition, protests, lobbying, mobilisation of public.
- ambiguity in defining of specific aim/interest, can change with time	- greater clarity in interests and objectives
- scope: wider, can serve multiple sections	- generally serves interests of particular class (eg FICCI), narrower scope

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Ways of Pressure Groups influencing Government

1) increased public awareness and public mobilisation about pertinent issues
(eg → Jan Lokpal movement for Lokpal Bill)

2) source of expert opinion and policy making
(eg → National Security Council, Nishtha, Raisina Dialogue by MEA & ORF)

3) effective implementation of existing government programmes
(eg - NREGA, Mid Day Meal schemes)

4) voice for vulnerable sections like tribals
(eg → Narmada Bachao Andolan)

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5) collaborating with bodies like NHRC to strengthen Human Rights Regime
(eg → Rutanjali Foundation for jail inmates)

6) source of inspiration for government functionaries
(eg - Jan Sunwais by Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan)

Therefore, pressure groups as part of the 'non party political process' aid in effective government policy formulation and implementation.

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12. Highlighting the issues faced by the institutions of local self governance in India, suggest measures that can be taken to improve their effectiveness in the delivery of public goods and services at the grassroot level.

(250 words) 15

Institutions of local self governance were given constitutional status in India under the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts.

Issues faced by local government

1) lack of effective power delegation by state governments

2) Panchayats → Gram Sabhas meetings ineffective

ULBs → no Gram Sabha-like body

3) lack of adequate financing for grassroot level development

4) lack of audit facilities to enhance accountability of public service delivery.

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5) lack of effective citizen engagement especially due to lack of capacity

6) inadequate cooperation by local level bureaucracy and administration.

7) ineffective use of District Planning Committees and Metropolitan Planning Committees.

Measures Required

1) code of conduct for Bureaucracy to enhance cooperation (like in Kerala)

2) State should devolve more powers, finances to local governments

3) capacity building of masses at grass root levels through ICT

4) Punchhi commission recommends:
↳ National Commission and state

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commissions for local government

↳ state legislative council with representation of local government.

5) 2nd ARC:

↳ Activity Based Mapping to define role of each level of local government

↳ community policing

6) increase power of state finance commission to augment finances of PRIs & ULBs

7) increase citizen engagement through social audits, citizen report cards

for inclusive development in today's time, a bottom up approach is required. Thus the subsidiarity principle which recognises local governance as means of development, needs to be strengthened.

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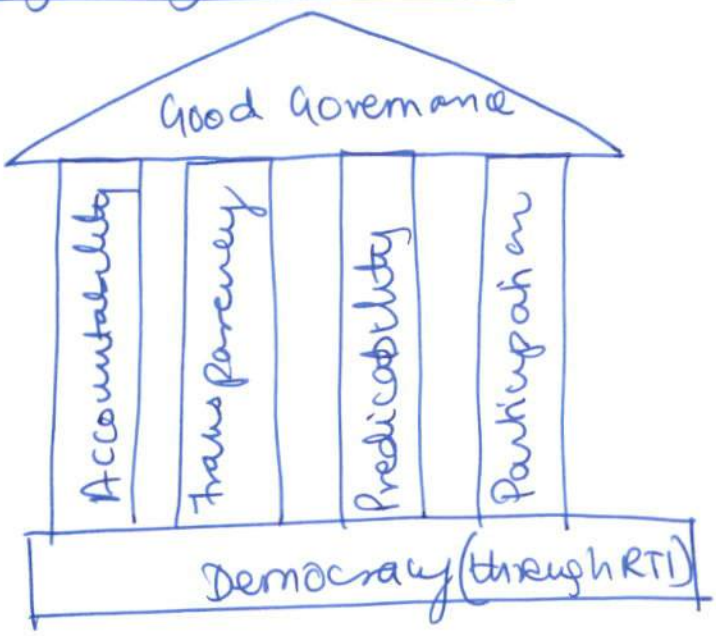
13. The recent amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005 will weaken the act and undermine the authority of Information Commissioners. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

Under the RTI Act 2005, any citizen of India can seek information from a 'public authority' who needs to reply expeditously within 30 days. In the Raj Narain vs. State UP case (1976), the Supreme Court recognised the Right to seek information as a right under Art 19(1)(a).

RTI & good governance



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RTI (Amendment) Bill 2019

THEN	NOW
1) Tenure: 5 years for central - CIC & ICs, state levels ICs	1) to be notified by government
2) Salary & service conditions CIC - equal to Chief Election Comm. ICs - equal to ECs State CIC - equal to ECs State ICs - " to Chief Secretary.	2) will be determined by government
3) Deductions when ICs/CIC receive post-retirement / pensions	3) removal of provision

Issues with the Amendment Bill

1) weakens independence of CICs, etc. by increasing power of central government to determine tenure, salary, service conditions.

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2) Reduction of status below Supreme Court judge: will make compliance of orders more difficult in case of higher government functionaries

3) other statutory bodies like CVC continue to enjoy extensive powers.

Justification of Amendment

1) By removing anomalies in the Act, the overall governance structure of the RTI will be strengthened

2) Need to rationalise powers given that CIC is a statutory body and ECI a constitutional one.

3) Treating their status as SC judge creates legal hindrances as cases can be filed against their orders in high Court.

Thus, given that RTI Act has led to a paradigm shift from culture of secrecy to culture of openness, the Act should only be further strengthened in its implementation.

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14. Highlight the process of delimitation in India. Also, throw light on the debates surrounding the delimitation exercise in India. (250 words) 15

Delimitation refers to the practice of redrawal of electoral constituencies as per the latest census figures. Art 87 and Art 170 provide for the delimitation of Parliament and state legislature constituencies respectively.

Process of Delimitation

1) formation of Delimitation Commission by Parliament
2) Delimitation Commission recommends redrawal of constituencies based on latest Census figures
3) publication in Official Gazette
4) Tabling of recommendations in Parliament and/or state legislature
5) Courts cannot enquire into this exercise under Art 329(a).

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6) President notifies the delimitation order.

7) Previous instances - 1952, 1962, 1976, 2002

Debates on Delimitation

1) India has one of the largest population per MPs ratio in the world.

2) Population has expanded multiple times since last delimitation.

3) shift of population to cities - which have inadequate representation

4) Most conflictual - political equality among North & South States as delimitation will increase seats of former and reduce of later

eg

State	LS Seats (present)	LS Seats (2026)
UP	80	>100
Tamil Nadu	39	<25

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Way forward

The next delimitation exercise is due post-2026 Census. Given the rising population is a reality, delimitation exercise should ensure adequate representation to all. But it should also ensure that the present efforts at population stabilisation are not stalled.

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15. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are vehicles of rural development, which help in the upliftment of marginalized groups. Elucidate. Further, mention the constraints faced by SHGs and how they can be addressed. **(250 words) 15**

SHGs are voluntary associations comprising of self governed, peer controlled informal group of people with similar socio economic background and common objectives.

Significance of SHGs in Development

1) promote financial literacy and inclusion
2) aids in community development through access to funds, technical assistance
3) provides for village level development (eg- Feliya Village in Jharkhand with SHG support by PRADHAN & Ford foundation)

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4) empowerment of vulnerable sections like women:
- 46 mn women connected to SHG network
- Kudumbashree in Kerala

5) strengthens democratic decentralisation with greater participation with PRIs.
(eg- SHG linkages with Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh)

6) address concerns of socially marginalised like caste discrimination, health and educational upliftment

Constraints faced

1) Unequal strengths of SHG networks (more stronger in South India than North)
2) less than average loan size from banks
3) lack of adequate support from SHG federations

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4) increasing NPAs of SHGs
5) lack of adequate awareness, financial capacity to sustain in long run.
6) issues in coordination.
7) Bottlenecks in rural areas - lack of access to infrastructure, power linkages
8) lack of adequate support from industry.

Measures Required

- implement government schemes through SHGs
- promote digital literacy among SHGs
- Rural Deptt.: awareness drives for SHG promotion
- structural support by handholding by SHG promoting institutes
- adopt best practices like Kudumbashree Model (Kerala) and Jeevika (Bihar).

Thus, SHGs are keys to provide for inclusive growth at grass root level. By active state support, SHGs can develop as models of inclusive development.

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16. With construction of toilets being only one part of the solution for a clean India, it is time that the Swachh Bharat Mission puts more emphasis on the other facets as well. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) aimed at an open defecation free (ODF) India completes five years this October 2019.

Objectives of SBM

- ODF India by 2019
- scientific sludge management
- behavioural change through IEC (Information Communication & Education)
- use of ICT to achieve objectives
- augment capacity of local bodies for implementation
- private sector participation

Progress Made

1) As of now, 98.9% of Indian households have toilets.
2) 93.4% villages get ODF status
3) 96.5% village households with toilets use them. (National Annual Rural sanitation survey 2018-19).

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4) Health Impact

- WHO study : prevents deaths of 50,000 children in 2018

5) Economic Impact

- UNICEF study : saved Rs 50,000 in 2018 for every rural household due to presence of a toilet

6) women empowerment

Remaining challenges

1) scientific management of sludge
2) eradication of manual scavenging
3) lack of adequate funding to ensure sustainability
4) unequal progress in states: Out of 1.5 crore still to be built, 0.9 cr. are needed in UP & Bihar
5) lack of adequate water, operation and maintenance for community toilets

Measures Required

1) widen scope of SBM.

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- move from ODF to ODF+ (no public urination) & ODF++ (scientific waste management)
- decentralised waste to energy plants
- ensure that all sewage is treated before being sent to rivers.

2) Behavioural Change

- School curriculum: "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" motto, learn early
- Behavioural Economics to transform default rules, to incentivise & reinforce good practices.

3) Use of technology

- Bandicoot for automated sewage cleaning
- use of biodigesters & twin pits

4) Policy measures

- concessions in GST for biodigesters
- 5yr plan for scientific waste disposal systems.

Thus, Swachh Bharat needs to go beyond toilet construction in order to achieve the vision of 'Sundar Bharat'.

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17. Highlight the salient features of Mission Indradhanush. What are the challenges that the mission is facing in its implementation? Suggest measures to address these challenges for progressing towards full immunization coverage. **(250 words) 15**

Mission Indradhanush is aimed at providing full immunisation for children below the age of 5 years.

- It provides for free vaccination for all the 7 diseases like Polio, etc.
- It also provides for a national dashboard to tackle progress.

Progress Made

- recognised as one of the best health initiatives across the world.
- >90% target achieved.

Challenges

- inadequate targeting at frontline.

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- challenge of funding
- inadequate monitoring mechanism
- issue of sustaining success over long term

Measures Required

- Prevention
  - CATCH: by Sikkim
- Increasing funding support by CSR
- use of ICT
  - Telemedicine
  - District level dashboard
- augmenting decentralised mechanisms (through mohalla clinics & mobile vans)

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- Mission Indradhanush has achieved much success in its goal of achieving immunisation. The next step is to ensure its sustainability in the longterm.

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18. Assess the importance of skilling in light of changing economic and demographic structure in India. In this regard, how far has the Skill India Mission succeeded in its mandate. **(250 words) 15**

Skill Development is one of the primary pillars for India to reap its demographic dividend.

Changing economic structure

- Shift to knowledge economy
- reduced dependence on agriculture for employment
- emergence of new technologies like AI, automation.

Changing demographic structure

- 65% population under 35 years of age
- increasing gap between ~~empla~~ education and employability.

(eg- Niti Aayog study - <18% of engineers are employable at graduation).

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Skill India Mission

- aimed at increasing the skill knowledge of Indian youth.
- Initiatives taken:
  - PM Kaushal Vikas Yojna
  - formation of NCVET
  - Indian Institute of Skills

Progress Made: > 1 crore youth skilled at present.

Further Measures Required

- Skill development at level of higher education sector (as per Draft Education Policy 2019)
- Best Practices
  - ↳ livelihood colleges (Chattisgarh)
  - ↳ CPYTE (Punjab)

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. What according to you are the reasons that motivated India to create a dedicated Indo-Pacific division in the MEA recently? Also, highlight the challenges for India in the Indo-Pacific region. **(250 words) 15**

Indo Pacific is a newly emerged concept. It recognises the Indian Ocean waters from East coast of Africa to Pacific waters at west coast of US as a single strategic space. This was recognised by India by creation of a Indo Pacific Division in the MEA.

Reasons & Motivations for India

1) Economic Potential :

- carries >90% trade of India
- source of >30% oil and energy exports

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- source of precious resource like polymetallic nodules (PMN)

2) Symbolic Importance:

- US recognises India as centre of Indo-Pacific
- increasing position of India as net security provider in IOR

3) Security Importance:

- protect SLOCs - freedom of navigation
- address piracy concerns

4) Strategic Concerns:

- Address Rise of China (BRI Project, assertion in South China Sea)

Steps taken by India

- Maritime security strategy 2015
- Port Developments at Chabahar (Iran), Agalega (Mauritius), Duqm (Oman), Changi (Singapore).

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- Strategic coordination with formation of QUAD and JAI trilateral
- coordination with ASEAN under Act East Policy
- SAGAR Approach
- participation in IORA, IONS, etc.
- Maritime exercises like MILAN
- HADR initiatives

Challenges for India

1) lack of adequate capacity to match clout of bigger players
2) China's rising clout in Indo Pacific Region
3) Uncertainty over USA's role
4) Internal disputes/conflicts among members
5) Different expectations from QUAD
   US - counter China India - Inclusive Development

In this regard, India should continue its concerted efforts to increase its presence in the Indo Pacific Region. Its vision can be summed up as SSS - samman, Samvad, Sahyog, Shanti & Samriddhi (Shangri La Dialogue 2018)

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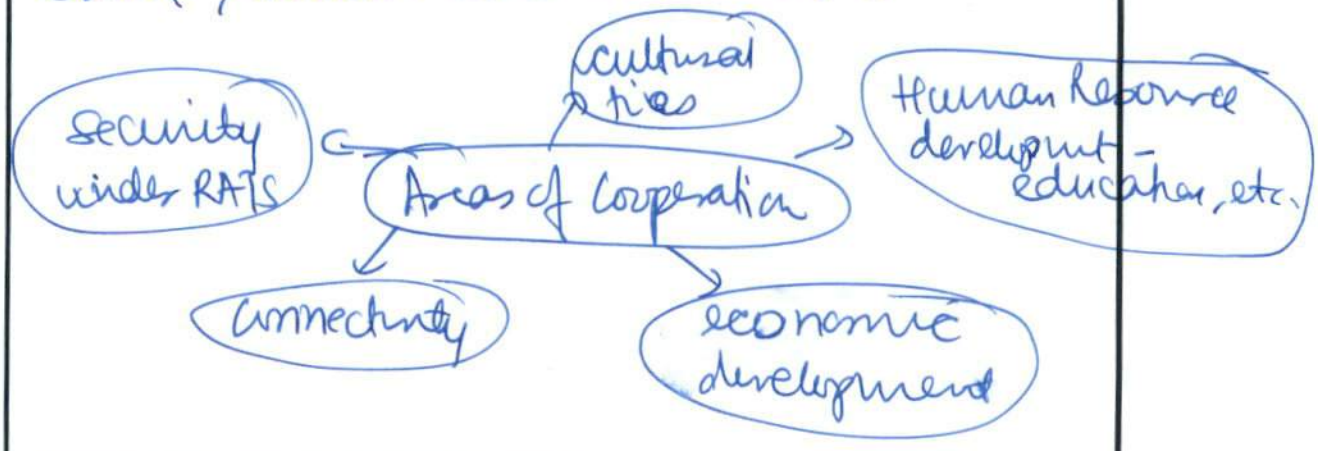
20. For SCO to become a successful regional grouping, it has to overcome bilateral differences between its members and their respective geopolitical calculations. Comment. Also, discuss the role that SCO can play in enhancing India's interest in the Eurasian region. **(250 words) 15**

The SCO is a regional inter-governmental organisation comprising of the 5 Central Asian Republics, Russia, China, India and Pakistan.



Challenges for SCO

1) Bilateral Differences

- India - Pakistan tensions
- India - China differences (eg BRI)
- China - Pakistan Axis
- internal dispute among CARs.

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2) Geopolitical calculations

- Pakistan → use of SCO to limit India's presence, increase cooperation with Russia & China.
- China → promote BRI & thus increase its hegemony
- Russia → maintain its historical clout over the regions
- The Region continues to be a hub of trafficking, extremism and political instability.

Role of SCO for India

1) Connectivity

- Increased cooperation on promotion of connectivity through INSTC, Ashgabat Agreement

2) Energy security

- promote India's access to energy potential of member states - like oil/gas reserves, uranium, hydrocarbons

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3) CARs - emerging market for Indian products like generic medicines

4) Development assistance (in IT sector, Medicine & Education sector)

5) to tackle challenge of terrorism

6) cooperation on issue of Afghan conflict

Way forward

Given that an emerging Pak-China-Russia Axis is a harsh reality, SCO offers India a platform to directly counter such tendencies. This not only in the benefit of India but for the overall development of Eurasia